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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-180
Tuesday
19 September 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-180 19 September 1989

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Egypt

Mubarak Receives Israel's Yitzhaq Rabin

NC1809111489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning. Rabin arrived in Cairo earlier today. Also attending the meeting were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Dr Mustafa al-Fiqqi, director of the President's Office for Information. Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, and Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Shim'on Shamir also attended the meeting.

Says Talks 'Extremely Good'

NC1809122289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described his talks with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today as extremely good.

In a news conference at the end of his meeting with the Israeli defense minister today, President Mubarak said there is an understanding between the two sides. He added that he asked Rabin to convey an oral message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

President Mubarak noted that he had a 3-hour round of talks with the Israeli defense minister in his capacity as a member in the Israeli cabinet and not as a representative of the Israeli Labor Party. He added that the talks aim at activating the dialogue process for the sake of holding negotiations in a bid to achieve a settlement to the Palestinian problem.

President Mubarak said: We seek to convince the Israeli and Palestinian sides to start the dialogue and hold a meeting, if possible, in Cairo.

President Mubarak emphasized the importance of having Palestinians from outside the occupied land take part in the Palestinian delegation which is expected to be formed in order to begin the dialogue with the Israeli side.

The following is the text [as received] of the news conference:

Question: What progress have you made regarding the dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis?

Mubarak: I held lengthy talks with Yitzhaq Rabin today. We are doing our utmost to bring together Israeli and Palestinian delegations to begin a dialogue with a view to reaching specific agreements on how the elections could be held. The talks were fruitful and logical, and there were some good points that we agreed upon, but there are other points that need further clarification. In this respect, I would like to point out that the Egyptian 10-point plan is not an initiative in the accepted sense of the word, but rather inquiries over some of the points outlined in the Israeli initiative proposed by Yitzhaq Shamir on elections in the occupied territories.

We are not against the elections and neither are the Palestinians, but they need some answers so that they can understand what these elections will lead to. As for your question about whether the PLO will accept this, I would like to say that we do not work alone but in coordination with the PLO so that they could form their own opinions over these points. As you know I have met with Yasir 'Arafat several times in the past 10 days.

President Mubarak added: We are doing our best and hope we will form a Palestinian delegation acceptable to both parties, and then the dialogue could begin in Cairo.

Answering a question on whether what he heard during his talks with Rabin measured up to his expectations and whether the Israeli answers were positive, President Mubarak said: Actually I have met with Shim'on Peres several times. I have also met with Moshe Arens, and with Yitzhaq Shamir when he was foreign minister, a meeting that took place in Cairo. Today I had a meeting with Defense Minister Mr Yitzhaq Rabin. Let me point out that logic prevails and that what I had expected came true, because we can never disagree over logic, but the matter needs further discussion in order to confirm all these points [not further specified].

The talks were extremely good and there was great understanding between Mr Rabin and me. I asked him to convey a verbal message to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir in this respect. I hope we will be able to achieve good results that can lead to bringing together Palestinian and Israeli delegations to start the dialogue.

President Mubarak noted that he will meet with Moshe Arens and Shim'on Peres in New York.

Responding to a question on the likelihood of a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the president said: I want to be clear. If I am to meet with Mr Shamir, it would be because there would be something significant to announce after the meeting. He added: However, if we were to meet and accomplish nothing, I fear that the public in both countries would be disappointed if nothing were achieved after they had expected great things from a meeting between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister. This will naturally affect citizens in both countries. I am careful to maintain good relations between people in different countries. Therefore, I must take this point into consideration.

Answering a question on whether Rabin had brought specific answers to the 10 points proposed by Egypt, President Mubarak said: We discussed most of the 10 points, which are undoubtedly under discussion in Israel. I believe that we will resume our discussion with Mr Peres and Mr Arens during my visit the United

States. By that time, I think the picture will be clearer and the Israeli Government will be able to present its final evaluation, so that a dialogue can be initiated. We seek to facilitate the peace process and, as I said earlier, we are eager to establish peace and are doing our utmost to achieve it. Peace entails sacrifices by all parties concerned and we are working on this basis. I trust that both sides appreciate this. God willing, we will succeed in arranging a meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations to prepare for the election process.

The president was asked about the Palestinian stand after his excellency's recent meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, whether the PLO accepts the idea of a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo, who would represent the Palestinian side in such a meeting, and whether Egypt is willing to make further efforts to convince 'Arafat to take a more flexible stand on the proposed meeting. The president said: 'Arafat made significant and unexpected concessions when he accepted UN Resolutions 242 and 338, when he agreed to abandon terrorist acts, and when he agreed that Israel must live within secure borders like all neighboring states. Did you expect that? Is that not flexibility on the part of Palestinians, the president asked. It is now Israel's turn to respond to the Palestinian side and to follow its example. This will facilitate the peace process and it will be a question of give and take between the two sides, be it in the form of concessions or mutual understanding, rather than unilateral concessions. Otherwise, we will not achieve peace. I have repeatedly said that peace requires concessions, so that the various people can coexist in amity, brotherhood, and cooperation.

Asked if the Israeli side has started to show genuine flexibility in proceeding toward a just peace in the Middle East in light of the PLO's positive steps toward peace, President Mubarak said: We must understand that there are different opnions in Israel. We, therefore, must not expect miracles from Shamir because public opinion must get involved so that a consensus can emerge. As long as there is logic and we act realistically I believe that we will be able to reach our goal.

Asked about Palestinian representation in the delegation to the talks with Israel, President Mubarak said that this point is still under discussion. The Palestinians will be elected from the West Bank and Gaza and some of those living outside the occupied territories may be elected. In my opinion, we must not ignore those Palestinians living outside the occupied territories. It is extremely important that some of them take part in the dialogue to avert any problems.

President Mubarak added: If we are able to cover all relevant topics and convince the two sides to sit down together and start the dialogue, this I believe would be a matter important enough to announce after a meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir.

Asked if the U.S. Administration can play a role in the current stage in giving impetus to the peace efforts, President Mubarak said that the U.S. Administration is a partner in the peace process. However, what we must rely on is the direct negotiations with Israel because it is the state concerned with the issue. It would be meaningless to talk with the United States and forget Israel. Nevertheless, the United States is a partner that should never be ignored in the peace process.

In response to a question about reports that the 10 Egyptian points ignored the Palestinian right to self-determination and the PLO's representational status, President Mubarak said: Currently we are working to get the two delegations to the negotiating table in order to agree on holding the elections, and, consequently, to have them hold the talks on the problem.

As for the right to self-determination, we have not tackled it at this stage. This point will be discussed after an agreement has been reached on the Palestinian representation and on holding elections.

Asked by an Israeli journalist whether Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo soon, President Mubarak said : 'Arafat can come to Cairo at any time. If you want a dialogue in Israel, we are ready to persuade him to go there. But let us be realistic. The inhabitants of the West Bank belong to the PLO, and there are many outside the occupied territories who belong to the PLO. If we bring 100 Palestinians from the West Bank, can you tell who is pro-PLO and who is not? Nobody can know a person's inner feelings. We are in constant touch with the PLO and we coordinate with them as far as the composition of the Palestinian delegation is concerned.

In response to another question, President Mubarak said that the entire Arab world desires peace and any claims to the contrary are a misconception. The president asked: Do all Israelis support peace? Some do and some don't, and to say otherwise would be untrue.

President Mubarak was then asked whether during his meeting with Rabin, who is from the Labor Party, he had sensed that the Israelis have a general framework for a settlement or that the goal behind the talk about the elections is to end the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. He said: My meeting with Rabin today was not in his capacity as a member of the Labor Party, but as defense minister and a member of the Israeli Government, so as to get the wheel of the dialogue turning and to bring about the negotiations. We cannot possibly cover all the details at the moment, because we want the parties concerned to come to the negotiating table and reach an understanding over the elections and the Palestinian representation in preparation for future stages.

President Mubarak pointed out that 1 of the 10 points submitted by Egypt inquires about the relationship between the transitional period and a permanent solution. He expressed his belief that these 10 points, which could be discussed during the dialogue, include many topics that the Palestinians will discuss with the Israeli delegation. The president added: We are working to bring about peace and will not make any statement or

even say a single word that could create obstacles to peace. The goal of my talks with 'Arafat and with the Israeli Government is to narrow the gap between the Palestinians and the Israelis so that they can sit down together at the negotiating table and solve their problems independently. As for whether the Palestinians are from the PLO or not is a matter that must not be discussed through the media.

Asked by an Israeli journalist why it had been Rabin who was invited to Cairo now, President Mubarak said you have to go and ask him.

Rabin Accepts Palestinian Meeting

NC1809130889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has announced there is considerable understanding of and appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's proposal for holding a meeting between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation.

Rabin said: We will accept an invitation by Egypt to convene such a meeting, provided Egypt informs us of the Palestinians who are going to participate.

This came in a short statement by Rabin at a news conference which he held jointly with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, following the discussions which the Israeli Defense Minister held with President Husni Mubarak today.

The Israeli Defense Minister hailed President Husni Mubarak for giving him the opportunity to discuss his ideas about how to stimulate the peace process and expand the sphere of peace in the the region to include parties other than Egypt and Israel.

Yitzhaq Rabin said: We have confidence in President Mubarak and in his efforts to hold a meeting and a dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

He voiced hope that this will help in embarking on the implementation of the peace initiative to resolve the crisis.

The Israeli Defense Minister added: We appreciate Egypt's role in seeking to establish stability, development, and peace in the region.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid made a similar statement in which he said that Egypt, under the leadership of President Mubarak, is earnestly seeking to give impetus to the peace process in the region. He described today's meeting between President Mubarak and Rabin as fruitful and important.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the meeting's timing is very important to the peace process.

Yitzhaq Rabin responded to a question on whether tangible progress had been made during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak on holding a preparatory meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations and on the issue of Palestinian representation by saying that there is considerable understanding in Israel on the following points:

One: We greatly appreciate President Mubarak's idea and his willingness to bring about a meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

Two: We agree that Egypt should extend an invitation to convene such a meeting.

Three: Egypt will announce the names of the Palestinians who are going to participate. As far as Israel is concerned, I believe that there are some problems regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the principles on which the meeting will be based. These problems must be discussed inside Israel. I also believe that after President Mubarak meets with Peres and Arens in New York, there will be a better opportunity to implement the ideas I discussed with President Mubarak today.

On whether the proposed dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations will take place before the end of the year, Yitzhaq Rabin said: I cannot predict a particular timetable. Nevertheless, it is certain that Israel and Egypt are willing to forge ahead with all means at their disposal in order to expand the peace process to include parties other than Egypt and Israel and to start a dialogue with a Palestinian delegation in order to attain comprehensive peace. As to how long this process might take, I would like to state that the faster we move, the better it will be.

Answering a question on whether the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will focus solely on attaining a transitional agreement without discussing a permanent solution, the Israeli defense minister said that regarding the Israeli initiative there is an overlap between the arrangements for a transitional period and a timetable for any permanent solution that would be reached. He added: This is the Israeli position. However, I will not go into the details of my discussions with President Mubarak on this point.

Rabin said he believes that the elections concept is a good one and added: The problem is that we must begin a dialogue with the Palestinians, chiefly with Palestinians from inside the territories. Without a dialogue with the Palestinians in the territories we cannot hold elections. This is part of a process which must lead us from the current situation to a permanent solution.

Rabin Ends Visit to Cairo

NC1809155789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left Cairo this afternoon following a visit to Egypt which lasted several hours, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

He was seen off at Cairo airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minsiter and foreign minister.

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives for Official Visit

NC1809162689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1459 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived here this afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak.

In a statement following his arrival, the Chinese minister said he is bringing a written message from the PRC president to President Mubarak. He added that Egypt has a role to play in the Middle East issue, noting that the Arab arena has witnessed several positive developments lately. He pointed out that the purpose of his visit to Egypt is to exchange views with Egyptian officials on the Middle East issue.

In response to a question on President Mubarak's 10-point initiative, the Chinese minister said it is positive and significant. He added: We have always called for a just and comprehensive solution, and this initiative, together with the joint efforts to resolve the Middle East issue, is considered a step toward giving impetus to the peace process.

Regarding the role the PRC could play in promoting the peace process, the Chinese foreign minister said his country has a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and should, therefore, play an important role where the Middle East issue is concerned.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who received the Chinese minister at the airport, said the visit of the Chinese guest underlines the existing strong friendship between Egypt and the PRC and reflects the amicable ties between the peoples of the two countries.

Ambassador Sami Haybah from the Foreign Ministry and several members of the staff of the PRC Embassy in Cairo were also at the airport to meet the Chinese foreign minister.

Talks Begin 18 Sep

NC1809194289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The official talks between Egypt and China began at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, led the Egyptian delegation to the talks, while PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen headed the Chinese delegation.

The two delegations will discuss international issues of common interest, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations.

Mubarak Receives Foreign Minister

NC1909100289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Sep 89

President Husni Mubarak received PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at the presidential office this morning. Also attending the meeting were Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the PRC ambassador in Cairo.

Sweden Proposes Mediation Between Arabs, Israelis

JN1809162189 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Sep 89 pp 3, 21

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that during his meeting yesterday in Cairo with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson proposed Swedish mediation between the Arab and Israeli sides as a contribution by Sweden to push forward the current peace efforts relating to the start of the elections process.

Informed political sources in Cairo told AL-ITTIHAD that Andersson carried with him a European working plan of action, which was drafted before the Egyptian president proposed his 10 points. The sources added that substantial amendments may be introduced to this plan during the Swedish minister's talks in Cairo.

The source went on to say that the plan includes the following:

1. To begin an intensive activity by the [UN Security Council] five permanent members and the other European states to hold direct and indirect talks among the parties concerned in the Middle East.

2. These efforts should concentrate on the Israeli election plans.

3. International laws and measures must be discussed, and the need to apply them to these elections must be emphasized.

4. The need for the United States and Egypt to hold indirect talks between Israel and the PLO. These talks should concentrate on discussing the formal measures for elections in the occupied territories.

The sources added that the United States was informed of the European plan, but has not yet given an official answer to it. [passage omitted]

Ship Sinks Off Sharm al-Shaykh; No Casualties

NC1709160389 Cairo MENA in English 1317 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Ismailia, Sep 17 (MENA)—The Panamanian ship "Safir" which went aground near Sharm al-Shaykh in the Red Sea two days ago, sank completely today as the Dutch rescue team that arrived to pull it to the coast

failed to tug it, due to the natural elements including the ebb and tide in this sea site, MENA learned.

The ship thus sank some 1,500 metres off Sharm al-Shaykh and went down some 1,300 metres below water.

No casualties were reported as the ship's crew and workers left it when it first hit the coral reef in this Red Sea area.

Libya

Yasir Arafat Arrives in Tripoli 17 Sep

LD1809000189 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the State of Palestine, arrived in Tripoli the evening of 17 September on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and others, including the ambassador of Palestine and staff of the Embassy of Palestine in the Great Jamahiriyah. President Yasir 'Arafat is accompanied by brother Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

Ends Visit

LD1809173689 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli midday today following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Libyan-Chadian Committee Meets in Tripoli

LD1609214489 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The joint Libyan Arab-Chadian relations committee held its third meeting in Tripoli this morning. During this meeting, which was attended by brother Adoum Moussa Seif, Chadian information minister, and the delegation accompanying him, the committee will endeavor to examine the items on its agenda, which include practical measures to implement the Algiers agreement signed between the two countries with a view to normalizing and developing bilateral cooperation in all fields, in addition to reinforcing the ties between the Libyan Arab people and the Chadian people.

The committee, which originated from the Algiers agreement of 31 August this year, has already held two meetings, the first in Tripoli and the second in Ndjamena.

Hungarian Envoy Summoned Over Israel Ties

LD1809192789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli 18 Sep, al-Fatih, (JANA)—This evening, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation summoned the Hungarian Ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and expressed to him the Great Jamahiriyah's astonishment and indignation at the resumption of relations between the Hungarian People's Republic and the zionist enemy. The Hungarian ambassador was informed that the Great Jamahiriyah cannot understand the Hungarian Government's justification for taking such a step at a time when the reasons for severing relations still exist—and are more valid today than ever before, given the zionist enemy's continued killing, repression, and banishment against the Palestinian Arab people, desipte the world public's denunciation of such practices. The Hungarian ambassador was informed furthermore that the Hungarian Government's step will have only negative repercussion on Libyan Arab-Hungarian relations, and on Arab-Hungarian relations is general.

Agreement Signed on New Chemical Plants

LD1609214789 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] An agreement was signed in Tripoli today for the execution of a project to build units of the first set of plants affiliated to the ethylene plant. This agreement includes the building of four plants, one for the extraction of butadiene, another for the improvement of gasoline, the third for the monobutane, and the fourth for benzene. These units of production are of extreme importance as they will increase the economic value of the Ras Lanuf complex, in addition to the raw materials they will provide for the chemical industries, the plastics, the synthetic rubber, and the polymerization plants with a potential output which will satisfy the needs of the local and Arab markets and the possibility to export elsewhere.

Sudan

Southern Issue Discussed With Libyan Delegtion

EA1709172389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and chairman of the steering committee of the national dialogue on peace issues had a meeting in his office, in the Friendship Hall this morning, with a visiting Libyan delegation led by Mr Ma'tuq al-Zubaydi, who is responsible for propaganda in Central and East Africa. Present at the meeting were Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the RCC and chairman of the Political Committee, and retired Lieutenant General

Joseph Lagu. Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah welcomed the delegation, explaining to them the firm intention and aims of the national salvation revolution to establish peace in the country so that prosperity and peace in all parts of the Arab nation prevail.

The leader of the Libyan delegation expressed Libya's concern over the issue of peace in Sudan. He said peace in Sudan means peace in all parts of the Arab states.

Lt Gen Joseph Lagu, deputy chairman of the committee, also spoke. He said there will be no problems in Sudan. We in southern Sudan, in particular, live in comprehensive unity for all religions. However, the southern issue is caused by political problems. We are now working together to solve this issue. This will be possible by creating a complete basis of understanding with neighboring states so that security, stability, and peace is achieved in the African Continent.

Paper Reports Numayri Letter to Al-Bashir

PM1509093489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Numayri Sends Letter to Leader of Sudanese National Salvation Revolution"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Former Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has renewed his support for the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan, but he criticized the Council for its bias toward a certain political party, though he did not name the party.

In a letter to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan, a copy of which has been secured by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Numayri said that on the basis of his daily monitoring of events in Sudan, numerous positions have prompted him to be honest with himself and to send a letter to the military council.

He added: "It has become clear to everyone that your revolution has started to regress toward splittism and that it has focused on a narrow partisan line to the extent that it has almost turned into a factional dictatorship ruling in the Army's name."

He warned that the establishment of people's control committees along the lines of the the Libyan revolutionary committees would perpetuate the single-party dictatorship, "which we fear could prove the last straw that breaks the camel's back."

Numayri, who has been living in Cairo as a political refugee since his regime was toppled following the April 1985 uprising, renewed his call for talks between the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to be held in Cairo, not Addis Ababa. [passage omitted]

Peace Talks To Move From Addis Ababa to Cairo

JN1809144989 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian diplomatic sources have confirmed to AL-ITTIHAD that secret contacts are under way to move the Sudanese peace talks from Addis Ababa to Cairo after President Husni Mubarak assumed the OAU chairmanship.

The sources said the idea to move the talks came after it became evident that Ethiopia is not neutral in the problem of southern Sudan and is still the main haven and financer of the rebels.

Minister Meets Equatoria Governor on Refugees

EA1809205689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The Minister of Relief, Migrants, and Refugees Affairs Mr Peter Urad Ador, met at his office this morning the military governor of Equatoria region, Major Gen Allison Magaya, with whom he discussed relief for migrants and refugees in Equatoria region and the condition of the displaced persons from the region in the national capital and other towns. It was agreed that there shall be a representative from every southern region in the ministry to undertake coordination between the respective regions and the ministry and be responsible for the following up of whatever concerns the region in the ministry.

Soviet Envoy Stresses Support for Government

EA1809203889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and chairman of the National Dialogue for Peace Steering Committee, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin al-Khalifah Yunus, met at his office at the Friendship Hall this morning in the presence of General (Iosif Lagu), retired, the Soviet ambassador [as heard] in Khartoum, to discuss the National Salvation Revolution's efforts and moves to achieve peace. In a press statement shortly after the meeting, the chairman of the committee said he briefed the ambassador on the outcome of the preliminary talks in Addis Ababa, which led to the convocation of the national conference on peace to crystallize ideas and a united opinion of the Sudanese people, in addition to the steps to be taken at the end of the conference and the decisions adopted by the National Salvation Revolution.

The ambassador said he was pleased with the civilized way being used to solve disputes in Sudan. His excellency stressed his government's support and backing for the Sudanese Government.

Commentary on Junta Talking Without Preconditions

EA1509205389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Since it came to power on 30 June, the military junta in Khartoum has been making continuous and absurd assertions that it will engage in talks with the SPLA/SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army/Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] without prior conditions. Strangely enough, even after talking with the movement without any preconditions on 19th to 20th of July 1989 in Addis Ababa, the junta continues to sing the same tasteless song—that they will talk without preconditions. It probably makes them feel good and it compensates for what they lack in legitimacy as they attempt to present themselves as some kind of small-town heroes challenging a giant passerby.

The issue of talks without preconditions was put to rest by the chairman and commander in chief of SPLA/SPLM, Comrade John Garang de Mabior in his last major speech, when he said that nobody needs to place prior conditions to talks. For any two sides to talk, all that is necessary is for both sides to agree to talk. This was the case at Koka Dam. It was the case when Dr John Garang met al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in the famous 9-hour meeting. It was the case with the African parties and it was the case with the DUP, the Democratic Unionist Party. In all these talks, there were no preconditions placed by the SPLA/SPLM, and the chairman underlined this in his speech. [passage omitted]

What is, then, the reason for the latest flurry of noises from Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah that they will talk with the SPLA/SPLM without prior conditions when it is this same colonel who just returned from Addis Ababa after leading the junta's talks with the movement? The answer probably lies in a fallacy of composition or fallacy of comprehension and the characteristic fundamentalist, simplistic propaganda.

Recently, the junta, as before, misunderstood or chose to distort the essence of the situation when the movement laid down several conditions for Dr John Garang to accept the junta's invitation to address one of their functions in Khartoum. What happened was that after the junta met the movement on 19th to the 20th July, they returned to Khartoum and formed a committee to advise them on how to proceed with the talks with the SPLA/SPLM and with the peace or war process in general. This committee is, of course, Khartoum's local affair, as the movement was not a party to its formation and it is the junta's prerogative to form any committee they choose to form. In reality, the essence of this committee is that it is an advisory committee to the junta, or, more to the point, it is a justificatory committee intended by the junta to justify a decision that they have already made. In any case, it is the junta's business. The SPLA/SPLM does not come in.

The SPLA/SPLM comes into the picture regarding this committee only on one specific issue: the junta had invited Dr John Garang, the SPLA/SPLM chairman and commander in chief to address the opening session of that committee. Notwithstanding the short notice, the idea could be considered. Dr John Garang is an intellectual and an academic. He has given lectures and has been invited before similar gatherings or discuss on forums, such as in Harare, Bergen, Makerere, London, Bonn, the (?Brooking) Institute, the Carter Center, and so on. To some of these institutions, he delegated other members of the movement, while to others he went to make the addresses himself.

The movement treated the junta's invitation in the same way, that is, as an invitation to Dr John Garang to address a discussion forum of some 100 or 1,000 distinguished Sudanese. Clearly, the acceptance by the movement was not to attend peace talks in Khartoum. There are no peace talks in Khartoum as none of the members of the committee is at war with the other. The acceptance was for Dr John Garang to go and address a discussion forum in Khartoum, but for this to happen, the movement demanded that the prevailing atmosphere of repression in the country must be removed. Thus, in order for Dr John Garang to address the junta's discussion forum in Khartoum, the movement demanded the lifting of the state of emergency, the lifting of the curfew imposed on the capital, etc. These were conditions for Dr John Garang to address the junta's discussion forum in Khartoum, not for peace talks, as we had just held peace talks with the junta on 19th to 20th July this year in Addis Ababa, and if, for some reason, the junta has already forgotten, we remind them that those talks were without prior conditions and it is on this note that we reiterate the position of the movement. [passage omitted]

If the atmosphere is favorable, the SPLA/SPLM will attend any discussion forum on the problem of the Sudan, anywhere and no matter who organizes it. Such forums provide opportunities for the movement to present its vision of the new Sudan. Indeed, patriotic elements who find themselves engulfed into the present justificatory committee of the junta should utilize it to the maximum to air their views, notwithstanding the fact that the junta had a decision in their desk drawers before the committee even set to business.

Former Housing Minister Sentenced to 5 Years

EA1609202189 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1453 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 16 September—The former minister of housing, 'Uthman 'Umar al-Sharif, was sentenced today to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of 5 million pounds. If he is unable to pay the fine, he will be imprisoned for another 5 years.

Special Court No 1, sitting in Khartoum under the presidency of Colonel Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, convicted the former minister under Article 153 of the

1983 penal code and Article 14 and 16d of the penal code [words indistinct]. The court heard that the former minister had disposed of government land to a number of persons, without holding a competitive public auction. In doing so he bypassed the housing plan. His disposal of the land in this manner was contrary to the law and led to the loss of public assets. The land would have brought in revenue [word indistinct] had the law been followed and the land been sold by public auction.

Command Council Responds to Numayri Letter

PM1509095289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 89 p 1

[Kamal Hamid report: "Khartoum Responds To Numayri Via AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—The Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan has announced its rejection of the statements contained in the letter addressed to it by former President Ja'far Numayri and reported by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday.

Brigadier Nayil Idam, a member of the Command Council of the Revolution Command in charge of the national security organ, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT as follows: The council received the letter through the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo 2 days ago. He also said: Although the letter contains erroneous information, we will discuss it at meetings of the Revolution Command and Council of Ministers.

He added: We reject the method of threats used in the letter, and Numayri and others must know that we are not afraid and that threats give us nothing but more determination to serve our people. We apply the proverb: The whale does not fear drowning.

'Ali Shummu, culture and information minister and official government spokesman for the government, expressed his astonishment at the accusations contained in former President Ja'far Numayri's letter.

Shummu told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "that letter comes at a time when the Salvation Revolution is standing on solid ground and enjoying unprecedented support from the masses. Besides, all its steps to resolve the masses' problems have borne fruit, and the country is currently experiencing better stability, security, economic, and living conditions.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the information minister made the following pledge: This revolution has nothing to do with factionalism. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

U.S. 'Connivance' in Israeli Missile Test

LD1709092289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0811 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sep 17 (KUNA)—A local daily Sunday charged the U.S. of "connivance" for keeping silent about the newly tested Israeli ballistic missile.

KUWAIT TIMES said that Washington had expressed grave concern over the presence of less advanced missiles in the hands of a number of Arab countries but when it came to Israel no word was (?issued).

The English-language paper emphasized that "Israel's military might derives directly from the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation."

The daily said that "purpose of this cooperation" is not difficult to explain, adding that Israel was, has been, and remains America's strategic outpost in the Middle East."

KUWAIT TIMES, however, noted that if the Soviet Union remained silent nobody would have known of the test firing and cautioned, in this respect, that such a situation "speaks of a serious lapse in the Arab world's collective security, if not defense strategy."

Foreign Minister Comments on Regional Topics

LD1509130189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1044 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Paris, Sep 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir was quoted as saying that the visit of his highness the amir to France "is a visit of a friend to a friend, in the light of the strong and personal relations between H.H. and French President Francois Mitterrand."

In an interview with the Paris-based "AL-USBU' AL-ARABI" [as received] weekly magazine, Shaykh Sabah said it is natural that the visit would be a chance for the exchange of views on several topics of interest to the two countries, topped by the Lebanese and Palestinian crises, security in the Arabian Gulf and the debt problem on which his highness the amir and President Mitterrand have similar views.

Shaykh Sabah said the visit to France by his highness the amir is the first official visit by the amir to a West European country.

He said to the magazine, in its Saturday's issue, that the visit comes in response to an official invitation after President Mitterrand's visit to Kuwait while on his way home from Indonesia.

He noted that his highness had made a stop-over in Paris last year when he traveled to New York to deliver a speech at the United Nations during which Mitterrand renewed his invitation that his highness has welcomed.

Answering a question on why his highness was yet to visit Britain despite an earlier invitation Shaykh Sabah said his highness has several invitations to which he did not respond yet, and he left open the possibility of a visit to Britain, and said "personal elations between the two men (the amir and Mitterrand) was a main factor" in choosing France for the European visit.

In an answer to another question whether the talks would deal with conditions of three million Muslim immigrants in France, the deputy premier and foreign minister said Muslims in France are not complaining of their conditions and the issue would not be on the agenda.

Speaking about the Lebanese crisis, Shaykh Sabah recalled that as a head of the Arab six-man committee on Lebanon he had agreed with the Lebanese parties of the nationalist movement on two points, first is the ceasefire and then lifting of sieges and this agreement had been acceptable to all quarters and then preparations for deploying [words indistinct] were under way.

He said, "I don't know what had changed the position of the nationalist movement and its leadership. Then the incidents and confrontations started to widen to reach a size that had not been witnessed in 15 years."

He added that "when we realized what is [word indistinct] we called for a summit conference and I presented my report which comprises the draft of the reforms [words indistinct] I proposed that the committee becomes at the level of head of states, because leaders can do what the ministers cannot. Then the tripartite committee was formed and worked for finding suitable solutions."

Shaykh Sabah hailed the efforts exerted by the tripartite committee but he noted that "the committee has again found the door closed" and decided to freeze its activities before calls from different sides, including from Kuwait, led to the resumption of the committee efforts.

In answering another question if the tripartite committee has adopted the reform draft prepared by the six-man committee as well as its remarks on the quarters which obstruct reaching a settlement, Shaykh Sabah said the tripartite committee "has in fact adopted [word indistinct] of the draft prepared by us and adopted our remarks.

On the French role in Lebanon, Shaykh Sabah said, "I don't want here to criticize France. France's position concerning Lebanon is different from that of any other Western country. But I have a note which is that arms do not solve problems...It is the dialogue alone that solves problems."

He added that sending French naval units near the Lebanese coasts could worsen the situation.

He also said, "I am satisfied today because the French have pulled out some of their naval units and I am also satisfied for the statements made by French officials, topped by President Mitterrand which indicated that

France is not going to war but to extend assistance and relief aid.... I hope that the French role would be supportive of that of the tripartite committee.

Shaykh Sabah said the closure of the American Embassy in Beirut was apparently prompted by the anti-American demonstrations in East Beirut.

He also cited threats by Lebanese Army Commander Michel 'Awn of hostage-taking of Americans.

Gen 'Awn might have made the remark accidently, but states treat such remarks seriously, Shaykh Sabah said and noted that shells had crashed in the perimeter of the U.S. Beirut Embassy, a development which he said was possibly another motive for the Americans to withdraw.

But Shaykh Sabah said he was satisfied about recent U.S. statements that Washington was considering sending its ambassador back to Beirut.

On whether the Americans were looking for an excuse to leave Beirut, Shaykh Sabah said: "Before we criticize the Americans we should criticize ourselves first because we Arabs have no embassies in Beirut."

The senior Kuwaiti official said it would be up to the Arab League Tripartite Committee on Lebanon to call an emergency Arab summit.

He said the committee which resumed its efforts on Thursday six weeks after it announced the failure of its mission stands now a better opportunity of success. He pointed out that Damascus was the side that requested the revival of the committee's mission.

Shaykh Sabah replied affirmatively when asked if the strife in Lebanon was having adverse impact on the Gulf region, and said Lebanon is a key part of the Arab world "and it's natural that we are interested in its security."

On what the U.S. wants in Lebanon, he said the Americans, whether through Tehran or Damascus, are mainly seeking the release of their hostages, an issue which he said has a special impact on the U.S. decision-making. [passage omitted]

Sheikh Sabah expressed hope that the European Community would be more actively involved in efforts to bring about peace in Lebanon and help resolve the Middle East crisis.

Responding to a question, Shaykh Sabah told the weekly a settlement of the Middle East crisis is not in the hands of the U.S. alone. "Peoples of the region are chiefly involved in such a solution and as such they are the decision-makers."

He stressed that Kuwait would adhere to the Arab consensus on such key questions, including the Egyptian 10-point proposal for a settlement of the Palestinian question.

"We know Egypt does not want to sell Palestine...and wish that the new Egyptian plan would be debated in a pan-Arab conference so that there would be no differences", he said.

Shaykh Sabah, meanwhile, described Kuwait's relations with Iran as "not bad" and noted that at one time missiles were fired at Kuwait.

Yet he added that ties between Kuwait and Tehran are now "better" and an Iranian ambassador was to take his Kuwait posting within a short period.

He said Kuwait believes ties between the two countries will be good in the future and would help clear the atmosphere in the region after years of the Gulf War."

Shaykh Sabah stressed that regardless of events Kuwait and Iran cannot be isolated from each other and noted that since Kuwait has a charge d'affaires in Tehran "there is nothing to prevent me from sending an ambassador."

Saudi Arabia

King Analyzes Regional, Lebanese Issues

LD1809192289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud chaired the meeting which the Council of Ministers held this afternoon—Monday, 18 September 1989—at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. Following the meeting His Excellency the Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said:

After a quick review of the reports on the new development in the political, security, and economic fields at the level of the Arab region, within the framework of the Council's permanent interest in current events in both the Islamic and Arab arenas, and in the light of the contents of the said reports, the Council listened to a statement by the custodian of the two holy mosques, in which he analyzed most of the political issues which the Council reviewed and the Kingdon of Saudi Arabia's stances on these issues.

The information minister added: Regarding the Lebanese question, the king pointed out to the Council the nature of the circumstances which coincided with the phase that followed the declaration of the first statement of the Supreme Arab Tripartite Committee on 31 July 1989, and preceded the statement, which was read by Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, to journalists at midday last Saturday. The king outlined the reasons which led the committee to resume the tasks with which it was entrusted by the Casablanca summit, to deal with the current situation in Lebanon in a manner that will achieve the hopes of its sons, and which is compatible with the aspirations of the Arab nation to deliver this fraternal and dear country. The king expressed his optimism regarding the cooperation of all

the parties concerned with the Lebanese issue with the efforts of the committee for the good of Lebanon and its people.

The information minister added: In this connection the custodian of the two holy mosques pointed out to the Council the stages of the draft national reconciliation document, and which will follow the implementation of the first stage. Regarding what has been put out by some media circles, concerning the conditions and questions that followed the issuance of the statement relating to the clauses of the first stage of the draft national reconciliation document which deals with the security situation and points out the political reforms, the custodian of the two holy mosques has today issued—with a mandate from his brothers, His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid—his directives to His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to anounce the whole document which has been prepared and approved by the Supreme Arab Tripartite Committee, so that everyone will be acquainted with its chapters and clauses regarding the final decisions which were taken to solve the Lebanese issue and which should not be the subject of argument and which brooks no alternative. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement on Lebanese Accord

NC1909064789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Owing to the speculations and comments of the media following the statement made by the foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, at noon on Saturday, regarding the statement of the supreme tripartite committee with respect to the Lebanese crisis, and in order to clarify the misunderstanding about the meaning of the aforementioned statement among certain circles, and with the authorization of the supreme Arab tripartite committee, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal made a statement today to SPA in which he said:

The statement which was made at the beginning of the news conference in Jeddah last Saturday was meant to represent the first phase of the comprehensive and integrated plan adopted by the supreme Arab tripartite committee set up by the Casablanca summit and entrusted with the task of finding the necessary fundamental solutions to the Lebanese crisis. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that there are other phases which will follow this one regarding the political reforms to be discussed with the parliamentarians at their meeting at the end of this September. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added that as the integrated plan was a result of constant consultations with all concerned parties in the Lebanese crisis, the committee found it necessary, to avoid misunderstanding, to release the full official text of this document. It is as follows:

In the name of God the merciful and the compassionate,

Draft of the National Accord document:

Firstly: General principles and reforms:

1. The general principles:

A. Lebanon's identity: Lebanon is a homeland, free, sovereign, independent and one. Its territory, people, and institutions within its boundaries are specified in the Lebanese Constitution and internationally recognized. It is of Arab affiliation and identity, an active and constituent member of the Arab League abiding by all its conventions. It is a member of the United Nations Organization and abides by its charter. It is also a member of the Nonaligned Movement. The Lebanese state epitomizes these principles in all domains and fields without any exception.

B. The political system: Lebanon is a democratic, parliamentary republic based on the respect of public and private freedoms at the fore of which is the freedom of opinion and belief. This Republic is also based on the principle of separation of powers and their equilibrium and cooperation, and on social justice and equality in rights and duties of all citizens without differentiation or preference between them, and on a free economic system that ensures the individual and private initiative.

2. The reforms:

A. President of the Republic: The president of the Republic is the head of the state and represents the symbol of unity of the homeland. He ensures the respect for the Constitution and the preservation of Lebanon's independence, unity, and the safety of its territories. He is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces which are subject to the authority of the Council of Ministers. He enjoys the following powers:

1. Chairs the Supreme Defense Council.

2. Chairs the Council of Ministers whenever he wishes without voting.

3. Calls the Council of Ministers to hold an extraordinary session whenever he deems it necessary.

4. Issues the decrees which are submitted to him from the Council of Ministers, and he has the right to reject any decree during a period of 30 days. If the Council of Ministers insists on the decree then it becomes operative.

5. Returns the laws to parliament upon a decision from the Council of Ministers to be reconsidered. If the parliament insists on them they become operative legally.

6. Refers the draft laws submitted by the Council of Ministers to parliament.

7. Names the prime minister in consultation with the speaker of the parliament and in accordance with general and obligatory parliamentary consultations. Parliamentary consultations become obligatory only after the first parliamentary elections.

8. In agreement with the prime minister-designate, issues the decree on the government formation.

9. Issues the decrees accepting the resignation of the government or the resignation of individual ministers after they are referred by the prime minister.

10. Accredits ambassadors and awards state medals.

11. Does not shoulder the responsibilities arising from the exercise of his powers except in the cases specified in the Constitution, such as high treason. He bears the responsibility of violating the Constitution.

12. Grants personal pardons, proposes and issues the law of general amnesty.

B. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers:

1. Chairs the Council of Ministers and is held responsible for carrying out the general policy of the state in all domains. He follows up the work of the ministries and the institutions, and coordinates between the ministries giving necessary instructions to ensure the smooth functioning of the government's work.

2. Carries out general political and parliamentary consultations for the formation of the government with the agreement of the president of the Republic.

3. Deposits the decree of the government formation to the president of the Republic.

4. Draws up the agenda of the Council of Ministers.

5. Apprises the president of the Republic a priori of the agenda and all the topics which will be discussed at the Council of Ministers' meeting.

6. Is the legal deputy chairman of the higher defense council.

7. Holds working sessions with the competent authorities in the state.

8. Entrusts the secretary general of the prime minister's office with the task of keeping proper minutes of the meetings of the Council of Ministers.

9. Presents the government's general policy before parliament.

C. The Council of Ministers: Procedural power rests with the Council of Ministers. Among the powers of the Council of Ministers are the following:

1. Drawing up the general policy of the state in all domains and also the draft laws and decrees necessary to carry it out and ensure its implementation.

2. Leading the work of all organs of the state—ministries, public administration, and insititutions including the military.

3. Appointing the officials of the state, dismissing them, and accepting their resignation in accordance with the law.

4. Returning the laws to parliament to reconsider them during a period of 30 days. If parliament insists on them they become operative.

5. Calling parliament to convene extraordinary sessions and dissolving it when necessary.

The meetings of the Council of Ministers are to be held at a headquarters designated for the Council of Ministers, and the legal quorum is the majority of two-thirds of its members. It arrives at its decisions through agreement and if that is not possible then through voting. Decisions are to be adopted by the majority of those present except in respect to basic issues where the positive vote of the majority of two-thirds of the Council of Ministers' members is required. The basic issues are the following:

Declaring the state of emergency and ending it; war, peace, and general mobilization; concluding international agreements and treaties; the general budget of the state; comprehensive and long term development plans; the appointment of officials of the first degree and their equivalant; the administrative redistribution of governorates, the dissolution of parliament; the law on elections; the law of citizenship and personal status; and the dismissal of ministers.

The government is considered resigned in the following cases: The assumption of the president-elect of his powers; if its head resigns or dies, God forbid; if one-third of its members resigns; If parliament withholds its confidence in it.

The minister: The powers of the minister are prepared in harmony with the general policy of the government and with the principle of collective responsibility—he can be relieved from his post only by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

D. The Parliament:

1. The parliament is to be enlarged to 120 members—half each for the Christians and the Muslims. To make elections possible deputies have to be appointed to fill vacant newly created seats by the government of national accord scheduled to be formed. Work is to proceed on this basis until circumstances permit new parliamentary elections.

2. The speaker of parliament and members of his office are to be elected for a 2-year renewable term.

E. The abolition of political sectarianism:

Abolishing political sectarianism is to be carried out according to a phased plan leading to no sectarianism. The task of taking suitable measures to attain this objective is to be left to the parliament elected on the

50-50 basis of Muslims and Christians. During the transitional period the following is to be carried out:

1. Public Posts: Abolition of the rule of sectarian representation in public posts, the judiciary, the military and security institutions except in the posts of first grade and its equivalent in the public and mixed administration and institutions and in the private sector.

These posts are to be shared 50-50 between the Christians and the Muslims without specifying any post to any sect.

2. In elections: Following the distribution of governorates on a mixed basis, elections for the parliament are carried out on the basis of the governorate.

F. Decentralization: The adoption of decentralization to facilitate the life of the citizens and to reinforce the unity of the land, the people, and the institutions, by increasing the number of governorates, reinforcing the local councils, municipal unions, and governorates' councils, and by widening the governors' authorities and diverting the greatest number of tasks and responsibilities from the central authority to the local authority. All of this within the framework of land, people, and unity of institutions.

G. The Courts: To strengthen and increase the effectiveness of the civil and military courts each within its own competence. Establishment of the Supreme Council to try presidents and ministers as stipulated in Article 80 of the present Constitution. Setting up of a constitutional court to monitor the constitutionality of laws and to pass final judgment regarding all conflicts and claims of violations in the presidential and parliamentary elections. The president of this court is appointed on the basis of a proposal from the Council of Ministers and the approval of parliament.

H. Establishing the Economic and Social Council for Development:

The said council represents the economic, social, scientific, and trade union activities provided that the law defines its field of competence, composition, connection, and pattern of work.

I. Education: To work toward providing knowledge to all, with emphasis on freedom of education, protection of private education, standardization of the curricula in state schools and in history and religious education books in all schools—both state and private schools, strengthening state education, vocational and technical education, and providing the Lebanese university with the necessary backing—particularly the applied science colleges.

J. Information:

Tackling information media in Lebanon and making it freely responsible is the duty of the capable Lebanese state. Therefore, all information means, both audio and visual, need to be reorganized within the framework of law and responsible freedom in a manner that serves conciliation and ending the state of war.

Second: Ensuring the sovereignty of the Lebanese state over all Lebanese soil. As agreement was reached between the Lebanese parties on the establishment of a strong and capable state founded on the basis of the national accord, the government of the national accord is to draw up a 1-year security plan, the general outlines of which are characterized by the following:

1. To declare the disbanding of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and the handing over of their arms to the Lebanese state during a period of 6 months, which starts after the adoption of the National Accord document, and the election of the president of the Republic, and the formation of the government of national accord, and the adoption of the political reforms in a constitutional way.

2. The reinforcement of the forces of internal security through:

a. Opening the door to all Lebanese volunteers without exception, and starting their training centrally, and then distributing them in the units in the governorates. They should follow regular and organized training courses.

b. Reinforcing the security apparatus proportional to the need to control the process of entry and exit of people into and out of the borders, by land, sea, and air.

3. The reinforcement of the Armed Forces:

a. The basic task of the Armed Forces is to defend the homeland, and if necessary, the protection of public order when the danger goes beyond the capacity of the internal security forces to tackle it alone.

b. The Armed Forces are to be used to support the internal security forces to maintain security in the conditions specified by council of ministers.

c. The Armed Forces are to be unified and trained in order to be capable of shouldering their national responsibilities in confronting the Israeli aggression.

d. When the internal security forces are ready to assume their security tasks, the Armed Forces will return to their barracks.

e. Military intelligence is to be reorganized so as to serve military objectives and no more.

4. To solve the problem of the Lebanese in exile, and to recognize the right of every Lebanese forced to leave his, or her place since the year 1975 and to be able to return to the place they left, and to pass the necessary legislation to ensure this right and adequate means for reconstruction.

The objective of the Lebanese state is the extension of its authority over all Lebanese soil through its own forces represented primarily by the internal security forces. Due to this objective, and owing to the brotherly relations which link Syria to Lebanon, the Syrian forces will

thankfully help the legitimate Lebanese forces to extend the authority of the Lebanese state in a specified period of time no later than 2 years after the ratification of the national accord document and the election of the president of the Republic and the formation of the government of national accord and the introduction of the political reforms in a constitutional way. At the end of this period the Syrian Government will decide with the agreement of the Lebanese Government of national accord to redeploy the Syrian forces in al-Biqa' region and the entrance of the Western al-Biqa' at Dahr al-Baydar up to the line of Hammanah al-Mudayrij, 'Ayn Darah, and other points. An agreement will be signed regulating the size and the time of the Syrian forces' presence in these areas. The supreme Arab tripartite committee is prepared to help the two countries arrive at this agreement if they desire so.

Third: The liberation of Lebanon from the Israeli occupation.

To recover the state's authority up to the international borders requires the following:

a. To work toward the implementation of Resolution 425 and the rest of the Security Council's resolutions stipulating the total removal of the Israeli occupation.

b. To stick to the truce agreement signed on 23 March 1949.

c. To take all necessary measures to liberate all Lebanese territories from the Israeli occupation and extend the state's sovereignty over all its territory and deploy the Lebanese Army in the border area with Israel and work toward the reinforcement of the presence of the international emergency forces in the Lebanese south to ensure the Israeli withdrawal and provide an opportunity for the return of security and stability to the border area.

Fourth: Syrian-Lebanese relations:

Lebanon, which is Arab by affiliation and identity, is linked by firm brotherly relations with all Arab countries and has distinguished relations with Syria, deriving their strength from the roots of the soil and history and strategic common interests. It is the concept on which coordination and cooperation between the two countries is based. It will be epitomised by agreements between them in various fields in a manner that attain the interests of the two sister countries.

On the basis of the aforementioned and because the application of security rules provide the required atmosphere to develop these distinguished links, ... is necessary to ensure that Lebanon is not a source of threat to the security of Syria, nor Syria to Lebanon in any case. Consequently Lebanon does not allow itself to be a passageway or station for any force, state, or organization which aims at violating its own security or the security of Syria. And Syria which is very concerned with the security of Lebanon and its independence and its unity and the accord of its sons does not allow any action that threatens the latter's security, independence, and sovereignty.

Iran Reports on King's 'Deteriorating' Health

NC1509125189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 89 pp 1,5

[M. Firuzi report]

[Text] No response is likely on cordial relations with Saudi Arabia until the internal situation in Riyadh is more settled, an informed source told the TEHRAN TIMES yesterday.

The source who spoke on condition of anonymity said that it has been reliably learned that the Saudi leadership has been thrown off balance in recent days, due to the deteriorating health of Saudi King Fahd. He added that the ailing monarch had postponed a scheduled visit to Washington for a second time due to health reasons.

He also spoke of a "power struggle" that appeared to have emerged in the Arab kingdom over the past few months since the king's health began to take a turn for the worse. The power struggle, he said, had broken out between Saudi Prince Malik 'Abdallah (the commander-in-chief of the Saudi National Guards) a key figure and Prince Sultan, another of King Fahd's brothers who is in direct line of succession to the throne after Malik 'Abdallah.

Prince Sultan is also defense minister and enjoys the full support of Prince Nayif, another of King Fahd's brothers who is now interior minister in the kingdom state.

"With these uncertainties over the succession and an air of impending turmoil, Tehran cannot expect any prompt response to overtures on building up good relations, nor will they (the Saudis) be disposed to review and revise their attitudes and policies to Tehran," the source said.

He added further that the Islamic Republic of Iran would have no other alternative than to take a wait-and-see policy until the struggle for power in Riyadh is at an end.

"Iran-Saudi relations are significant in the foreign policy equations of Iran, but any decisions that can emerge from discussions will have to await the word of a person in real authority in Riyadh," the source said.

Oil Exports Via Saudi Arabia Begin 18 Sep

JN1809194689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi on the occasion of concluding executive and operative measures related to the Iraqi-Saudi oil pipeline project.

Following is the text of the cable:

Sir, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect you.

Taking example from your good deeds, we proceeded with great enthusiasm to continue the march of historic achievements and victories in different fields and the march of development and construction, which was achieved under the conditions of victory and peace.

Amid the Iraqi people's festivals and joys during the week of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, and while they recall the great heroic acts and the good times, I am honored to inform your excellency with great pride of the conclusion of the executive and operative measures related to the Iraqi-Saudi oil pipeline project to transport Iraqi crude oil through Saudi Arabia to the Iraqi loading port on the Red Sea shores. I am also honored to inform you that the exporting of Iraqi crude oil has started through that port, whereby the Iraqi oil tanker al-Qadisiyah was the first tanker to anchor at that port and to begin loading today, 18 September 1989. [passage omitted]

Zambian Defense Minister Leaves Baghdad 18 Sep

JN1809110489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Zambian Defense Minister Frederich Shumba Hapunda and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today. During the visit that lasted a number of days, the guest minister held talks with officials on developing bilateral relations. He was seen off at the airport by Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal.

Italian Daily Interviews Vice President Ramadan

PM1409152089 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 8 Sep 89 p 9

[Interview with Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by Luigi Fontana in Belgrade; date not given]

[Text] Belgrade—During the 4-day conference they have waged a very tough battle against Syria. The Iraqi delegates to Belgrade accused the Damascus government of wanting Lebanon's destruction. And from Syria there have come impassioned responses citing Iraq's support for the Christian General 'Awn. Baghdad's delegation also has been at the center of a dispute with Iran over the failure of their peace talks, which have been at a standstill for a year.

[Fontana] Why do you attack Syria so harshly? Do you also not share the responsibility for the tragic situation in Lebanon?

[Ramadan] The history of Syria in Lebanon goes back 14 years. Lebanon is a country that belongs to the Arab League, but does not yet have the right to its own legitimacy and independence. Who gives Syria the right to behave in this way, to make decisions about another country?

[Fontana] There is talk now about Damascus' willingness to withdraw its troops...

[Ramadan] We do not believe in petty tactics. There is no point in removing two or three divisions. We want Syria to withdraw completely, just as all outside forces must leave Lebanon. We do not believe that Syria wants to withdraw, unless it is forced to do so.

[Fontana] Your president, Saddam Husayn, issued the following threat to the Syrians in Casablanca: "Beware, you will have us to contend with." Are you preparing for a confrontation?

[Ramadan] It is impossible to say now what will happen in the future. Certainly, however, as long as Syria remains in Lebanon, we will continue to fight alongside the forces struggling for unity and independence. Everyone knows that Syria, Israel, and Iran are fighting on the same front in Beirut. Irangate should explain many things...

[Fontana] UN Secretary General Perez De Cuellar left Belgrade declaring his failure over the resumption of the peace talks between Iraq and Iran...

[Ramadan] Yes, it is true. There is no progress. But the facts are quite clear. We immediately accepted the UN resolution on the truce, whereas Iran did so only after its military defeat. It is they who are rejecting dialogue.

[Fontana] Is it true that the explosion at your factory, in which 700 people died, was an act of sabotage, as the Israelis' English-language press has stated?

[Ramadan] We know that this theory has been put forward but we rule it out. There is no political implication. The truth is simpler: The explosion occurred a month ago in a warehouse containing highly inflammable materials. There temperature was 50 degrees: This, and nothing else, caused the explosion. An accident happened, as in so many other factories around the world.

[Fontana] But it has been reported that your factory produced military missiles...

[Ramadan] I do not know what it produced.

Rabin Pays Visit to Egypt, Terms Talks 'Good'

TA1809125489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Report by special correspondent in Cairo Aharon Barne'a]

[Excerpt] The meeting between President Mubarak and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin lasted about 3 hours. During the first 15 minutes, additional officials participated in the meeting. On the Israeli side, there was Ambassador to Cairo Shim'on Shamir and the defense minister's military aide. On the Egyptian side, there was Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid; Dr Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser; and, of course, Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni. They left after 15 minutes, and Mubarak and Rabin remained alone for over 2 and ½ hours. Their discussion revolved around the question of the first preparatory encounter on the issue of elections.

Coming out of the meeting, Yitzhaq Rabin said that the talk had been a good one and that they mainly discussed the steps that must be taken to compose a Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel.

The same issue was mentioned by President Mubarak, who said that at present the problem lies in creating a situation that will allow for a meeting of the two delegations and that he had discussed the composition of the Palestinian delegation with Defense Minister Rabin. According to Mubarak, the Palestinian delegation must include representatives from outside the territories. After the delegations meet and agree on the system and procedures for holding elections in the territories, and after the elections are held, there will be an elected body. That body will also have to include representatives from outside the territories in order to discuss the final settlement. Without representatives from outside the territories, it will be a disaster, said President Mubarak. My 10 points, he added, are neither an initiative nor a plan. They are merely points for clarification with regard to the Shamir plan.

We asked President Mubarak whether the meeting with Minister Rabin had met his expectations. This is what he answered:

[Recorded Mubarak remarks in Arabic, followed by Barne'a's translation] I have so far met with Foreign Minister Arens, Shim'on Peres, and with Yitzhaq Shamir, who was then the foreign minister. Logic prevailed in all these meetings, as well as in today's meeting. All our talks were anchored in reality. What took place today met my expectations. There can be no differences of opinion between us on matters of logic, but the points we discussed will need further clarification and discussion.

The talks, said Mubarak, were good. There was profound understanding both on my part and on the part of Mr Rabin. I relayed an oral message to Mr Shamir through Mr Rabin. By the way, Mubarak refused to tell us what the message to Shamir was. He added: I hope we will achieve positive results that will lead to an encounter between a Palestinian and an Israeli delegation, in order to launch a dialogue.

We asked President Mubarak whether the positive results of his meeting with Minister Rabin will lead to a meeting with Prime Minister Shamir. Mubarak replied: If I were to meet with Shamir, that would call for a major declaration. I fear that if we meet and nothing comes of it, this will complicate the positions of both countries and cause a deterioration in public opinion, all of which will only end in despair. I do not wish to cause despair or hurt the chance to attain peace.

We discussed most of the 10 points, said Mubarak. They are still being debated in Israel. We will continue discussing them with Ministers Arens and Peres in New York, and I believe that after that, the picture will be clearer. At that point, the Israeli Government will be able to tell us what its final stand is, so that we can launch the dialogue. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Sees Need for Clarification

TA1809141089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is now on his way back to Israel. After the 3-hour meeting with the defense minister, President Husni Mubarak said: There are points over which Rabin and I reached an agreement, and there are several points which need further clarification.

Rabin and Mubarak discussed the possibility of attaining peace through the 10-point plan proposed by the Egyptian president, as well as the inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel.

Minister Rabin described the talks as good:

[Begin recording] [Rabin—in English] The problem is that we have to start with a dialogue with the Palestinians, mainly Palestinians from the territories. Some of us think—only [Palestinians from the territories]. But without a dialogue with the Palestinians in the territories, we cannot bring about elections that are part of the process that has to lead us...[end recording]

[Announcer translates and continues] Without a dialogue with the Palestinians, we cannot bring about elections that are part of the process that has to lead to the permanent settlement.

Mubarak—and this is new—did not mention the indispensability of an independent Palestinian state. After the meeting, he said that what matters now are talks between Palestinians and Israel. 'Arafat is ready to make far-reaching concessions, as he has made in the past year, said Mubarak.

[Begin recording] [Mubarak—in English] He could come at any time. [Words indistinct] He is ready. He is ready to go there. Why not? [Words indistinct] ready to make

a dialogue with you there with Mr Shamir. If you agree to that, I am ready to persuade him to. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rabin Returns from Meeting

TA1809171689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1632 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Statement by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at Ben-Gurion Airport upon return from his visit to Cairo—live]

[Text] Good evening. I have just returned from Cairo, having traveled there at the invitation of Egyptian President Mubarak. During our meeting, I explained the following things: First, the essence and content of the Israeli peace initiative. I thought it was proper that I clarify the circumstances, reasons, and content of the plan as adopted by the Cabinet. I clarified the degree of the linkage between that initiative and principles of the Camp David accords—parts that are identical, and the differences required by changing circumstances.

Second, I explained that the Cabinet decision—regarding the possibility that, with Egyptian help, an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian delegation will meet for a dialogue—will be made only after the scheduled series of meetings is held. The aim of the dialogue is to make it possible to implement the process which will begin through elections of and by the inhabitants of the territories of a representation with which we will conduct these negotiations.The first such meeting was my meeting with him, to be followed by the planned meetings between Vice Prime Minister Peres and Foreign Minister Arens with the Americans and with President Mubarak in the United States.

During our dialogue, part of which was held in a larger forum but which was mostly private, I told him that it seems to me that there is a rather broad consensus regarding three issues. First, Egypt should assist in bringing about a meeting between the two delegations for a dialogue in a bid to make elections possible; this is part of a two-phased process that will lead us from that point to the permanent solution. Second, Egypt should take the initiative and call that meeting. Third, Egypt should be the one to announce the composition of the Palestinian delegation, after coordinating with various elements which I will not specify but which also include Israel.

I provided the president with additional clarifications. I told him that with respect to the composition of the Palestinian delegation, there are still differing views regarding the basis on which it should come to the dialogue. There are also differing views regarding the overall formal resolution on the attitude toward the possibility that Egypt help bring about such a meeting. A decision on them will be made in only 2 or 3 weeks.

These are the issues. During our conversation, naturally, other issues related to developments in the Middle East and the Arab world as a whole, as well as Israel's problems with its other neighbors—although not necessarily with Egypt—were also broached. This, in general terms, covers the issues that were discussed.

My impression is that the Egyptian president sees a unique opportunity here to advance the process by arranging the meeting between the two delegations. He is prepared to lend a hand toward this and views it as an opening and a chance to expand the peace process beyond the peace that prevails between Egypt and Israel.

Gives News Conference

TA1809174589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1640 GMT 18 Sep 89

[News conference held by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin upon return from Cairo at Ben-Gurion Airport, immediately after his statement on talks—live]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Defense Minister, the Likud ministers announced last night that they object to the Egyptians' 10 points, and it is very clear that they do. Will this put an end to the process?

[Rabin] I do not wish to address this question, because it is undoubtedly one of the debated issues. One thing is clear: If such a meeting between an Israeli and a Palestinian delegation is convened, Israel will come to that meeting with a clear stand, which is the peace initiative as endorsed by the Cabinet on 14 May 1989. Therefore, there is no room for misunderstandings concerning the Israeli stand on such a dialogue. The question is what the Palestinian delegation should bring as the agreed opening stand. As is known, there are also differences of opinion on this issue in the Cabinet. In the absence of a Cabinet resolution, I could not answer the Egyptian president's questions on this issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] The prime minister claimed at the Likud ministers' meeting that you surprised him with the positions you expressed. Is that so?

[Rabin] I would not like to address this matter. I am surprised that he was surprised.

[Elimelekh Ram, Israel Television's parliamentary correspondent] Mr Defense Minister, the feeling here in Israel over the past 24 hours has been that we are on the brink of a government crisis. Also, regarding the Palestinian delegation, do you think it would be possible to bridge the gap between your position—which, in this case, is similar to President Mubarak's—and that of the Likud ministers?

[Rabin] I do not think it would be proper to tie the question we are faced with—despite the differences of opinion—to anything outside the issue at hand. By that I mean the question that should be addressed is whether, after what we have heard so far or what I heard during my meeting with the Egyptian president and after the future meetings.... [changes thought] Anyhow, the decision was that a decision will not be made in the next week or 2, but only after the return of the vice prime

minister and the foreign minister from their visits to the United States. Consequently, the main issue should be linked to a substantive reference to the possibility as it seems to exist right now.

None of us currently deals with the question of whether or not it is necessary to remain in the Cabinet or secede. To me, it is irrelevant at the moment. The relevant thing is whether, under circumstances that will become clearer and will be clarified even further, it will be possible and necessary to make a decision in the direction of starting a dialogue—in a meeting—between two delegations, and a decision on what the basis for this dialogue should be. This is currently the issue. We very much hope—or at least I do—that it will be possible to reach a decision with the consent of most of the members of the Cabinet and preserve the integrity of the national unity government.

[Unidentified IDF Radio correspondent] Mr Defense Minister, we are from IDF Radio. I would like to ask you this: President Mubarak said that the Egyptian initiative is in fact not an initiative, but a clarification. Exactly what clarification did he wish to hear from you today, and what did you tell him in response? Where, in fact, do you differ following your meeting in Cairo today?

[Rabin] In the absence of a Cabinet resolution—I was not authorized with a Cabinet resolution—I could only explain to him in clear terms what the Cabinet's peace initiative involves, where I see us agreeing—as I noted earlier—and where there is still no unified opinion. I explained to him that a decision on this will be made by the Cabinet only after the return of Peres and Arens from the United States.

What I tried to do is understand what he thinks. In a few words, I would say that he views the problem as an opportunity, an opening. I would say he has a general picture of it. To a certain degree, I would feel safe in saying that he did not go into too much detail. As a result, for these two reasons—one, that I did not enjoy a Cabinet mandate as there is no resolution on some issues which are not insignificant, such as on the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the basis on which the Palestinian delegation should arrive in advance [incomplete sentence as heard]—I saw no way that I could go into too much detail.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, after the meeting with President Mubarak, where do you see the major obstacle to the meeting between the two delegations?

[Rabin] There are still a number of issues that require clarification. I believe they could be fully clarified after the Israeli Government reaches a decision. The problem, as I said before, is first and foremost, what is the minimum Israel expects the Palestinians to come up with when they arrive for discussions within the framework of that dialogue, and what will be the composition of the delegation both from the point of view of principles, and perhaps also from the point of view of the individuals involved.

Rabin Obtains Mubarak Clarification

TA1809192889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Immediately upon his return to Israel, the defense minister telephoned the prime minister and briefed him on his meeting with President Mubarak. Our correspondent Elimelekh Ram has learned that Mr Rabin took a message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Egyptian president. Our correspondent adds that the Egyptian president told the defense minister that the Arab world does not want any more wars. I support elections, Mubarak told Rabin, in preparation of talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Mubarak believes the Palestinian residents of the territories will play a dominant role in any Palestinian delegation and believes the importance of delegates from the Palestinian diasporas will be secondary.

When the defense minister raised a question on the variations in the Arabic and English versions of the 10-point document, President Mubarak asked his aides to bring the first draft—the Arabic text which includes Israel's name—and told Rabin: This is the version that is acceptable to me.

Ehud Ya'ari, our correspondent in Egypt, reports that the Egyptians expressed satisfaction with the talks with Rabin.

Reaction to Rabin's Talks With Mubarak in Cairo

Industry Minister Questions Trip

TA1709183989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon, on his return home from overseas this afternoon, said that since the Likud opposes President Mubarak's 10-point program, he questions the wisdom of going to Egypt to discuss it. He was reacting to Prime Minister Shamir's statement at a meeting of Likud ministers that the Likud is opposed to the Mubarak plan.

Sharon also said that he intends to call for a special meeting of the Inner Cabinet immediately to discuss the matter. Sharon said that he sees no point in Defense Minister Rabin's going to Egypt because no good would come of it, since the Mubarak plan was merely one more attempt to push Israel back to the pre-6 Day War borders, or even to the borders of the 1947 partition plan.

Further Sharon Reaction

TA1809161689 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Avi Bettelheim—live]

[Excerpt] [Bettelheim] The defense minister will land in Israel in a few minutes. His talk in Egypt today has

displeased some Likud ministers. One of them, perhaps the most prominent, is Industry and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is in the studio with us. Good evening, sir.

[Sharon] Good evening.

[Bettelheim] Do you not think, Mr Sharon, that every meeting and every talk between a senior Israeli minister and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak can contribute to the promotion of the peace process?

[Sharon] I believe that a peace settlement can be attained on two conditions. One is that Israel put an end to the violence and terror which are termed the intifadah [uprising]. Presently, the security situation is constantly deteriorating—to the extent of rendering the lives of Jews open to assault everywhere, be it downtown Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, or along the country's roads. The Jordanian front is also deteriorating; there is no longer any calm there. As for the Israeli Arabs—the radicals in that sector are becoming increasingly more active. As long as all these things continue, peace cannot be attained. If quiet cannot be attained through a political move, perhaps a political move can be attained after we contrive to secure quiet. That is the first subject.

The second condition is this: Peace can be attained if Israel is consistent. Israel signed the Camp David accords, with the United States acting as the cosignatory. In that agreement, we ceded some very vital principles. Then there was the Shamir plan, which became the government plan after the government endorsed it. Naturally, the Likud ministers, including the prime minister, are totally committed to the Likud Central Committee's resolutions, but there is also the government plan. We have hardly started discussing that, yet here we are again, facing a new plan in which President Mubarak can call whatever tune he likes. It is not the last plan, either. In my opinion, all this will lead us to something worse than the 1967 borders and the establishment of a second Palestinian state; it can lead us back to the 1947 borders.

[Bettelheim] You claim that in authorizing Rabin to leave for Egypt before the intifadah is ended, Prime Minister Shamir has violated one of the braces endorsed by the Likud Central Committee. What will you do about it? Will you move for a vote of no-confidence in the prime minister in the Likud Central Committee?

[Sharon] This is not a personal issue. The Likud Central Committee resolutions are binding. It is inconceivable that the resolutions of the 2,600-member Central Committee of the largest political movement in Israel should not be binding. I am convinced that they apply to the prime minister, myself, and all other Likud members. Therefore, the question is not personal; it is a question of whether the principles should be adhered to—and they should. Without these principles, the first plan proposed by the government contains many pitfalls. [Bettelheim] You said, however, that Yitzhaq Shamir has violated one of the braces, which means that he has betrayed the confidence, or the mandate, given him by the Likud Central Committee.

[Sharon] I do not understand your inclination to exacerbate the situation. The problem is not that. The situation is too serious to be dealt with along personal lines. There are some Likud Central Committee resolutions that are binding. If it becomes clear that these resolutions have been violated, including the one stipulating that there will be no negotiations as long as violence and terror continue, then the Likud Central Committee will of course have to be convened to address this question.

It all seems very strange. We must understand that the solution to our problem does not pass through either Cairo or Washington. Since the problem is mainly in the defense sphere, the solution lies right here. It seems very strange that the very man responsible for Israel's greatest defense failure should be the one to travel to hold talks designed to cover up that same failure. All this seems very improper to me. I think Israel should adhere to its own plan, and to the principles binding the Likud Cabinet ministers. Israel should fight for this plan. It was a mistake to travel to discuss Mubarak's plans. Furthermore, we heard this morning that the 10 points—or the 10 questions, it does not matter what they are termed—are not being discussed at all.

All this proves that a certain campaign is being carried out; I do not know by whom. Such a campaign could not be carried out in any civilized country, because it is inconceivable that such a thing should not be brought to the Cabinet. If not to the Cabinet—if the Cabinet is too large—then at least to the Inner Cabinet. I am not saying this due to curiosity, because everything is leaked out 5 minutes after the forum of four meets. I have other reasons for saying this. There is, first of all, the matter of democracy and joint responsibility. Second, people with rich experience from both major parties sit in the Inner Cabinet, and it is a waste not to use their experience.

[Bettelheim] One of the points over which you have expressed the most stringent opposition is the territories-for-peace clause. I would like to ask you, Mr Sharon: Would you not agree to any territorial concession for true peace with the Palestinians and with Jordan?

[Sharon] I think the Likud's stands on this issue are very explicit. We have made our stands clear on the issue of defense. We have also made the question of Jerusalem clear: Jerusalem is not subject to negotiations. Its residents—who are Jordanian nationals with Jordanian passports—will not participate in elections. We made it clear that there will be no second Palestinian state west of the Jordan River, and that there will be no foreign sovereignty, because foreign sovereignty will eventually be followed by a state. The last point is this: Jewish settlement will continue, because it is a central factor of our security concept. We have very clear and unequivocal stands on this issue; it is useless to question them.

We have to understand that if we retreat each time we encounter a difficulty, we will never stop retreating. Achievements can be made if everyone realizes that although peace is important to the Jews and we all want peace, peace is equally important to the Arabs. The question should be not only what the Jews can give in return for peace, but also what Arabs are willing to give in return for peace. [passage omitted]

Shamir: Possible Coalition Crisis

TA1809172189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] A coalition crisis may be forming following the Rabin-Mubarak meeting and the real chance that deliberations on the Egyptian plan might take place. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening: I would prefer to see national unity continue, but it cannot be worth any price. He was speaking at a ceremony in which he was awarded honorary citizenship of Jerusalem. Reacting to President Mubarak's remarks that a catastrophe may evolve if Palestinians are not involved in the contacts, Shamir said: The Cabinet is prepared to talk to Palestinians from Judaea and Samaria.

[Begin Shamir recording] We published the Israeli Government's peace initiative, in which we stated explicitly that in order to achieve peace it is necessary to resolve the conflict with the Arab countries and with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. To attain that goal, meetings can be held anywhere in the world.

Clearly, in a national unity government such as ours, which includes individuals with differing views, there is always the risk of bitter differences of opinion turning into a crisis. As for me, of course, I would prefer national unity to be preserved, but I must add that even that—much as it is valuable—cannot be worth any price. [end recording]

Parties React to Visit

TA1809201489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Some members of the Likud have sharply criticized Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Egypt and his meeting with President Mubarak. Some Likud members are even calling for the dissolution of the unity government.

Members of the Alignment are awaiting Shim'on Peres' return from the United States.

In the religious camp, Interior Minister Rabbi Arye Der'i is trying to mediate between the Likud and the Alignment. Here is A review of the current state of affairs by our correspondent Hanan 'Azran:

The unity government is on the verge of collapse. Enormous importance is attributed to the meeting tomorrow between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin insofar as the continued Likud-Alignment partnership in the Cabinet is concerned. The sharpest criticism from among the Likud was voiced by Minister David Levi this evening. He said: What took place in Egypt constitutes a serious violation of proper administrative procedure. When positions are coordinated in contravention of the Cabinet's official initiative, and the involvement of foreign elements in internal Israeli affairs is encouraged, it is a grave phenomenon. Minister Levi says: Anarchy reigns now. No one rules, and anyone can do what he pleases. The Cabinet's policy has been trampled on, he says, and it is impossible to continue this way.

The Alignment believes that despite Likud declarations against meetings with exiled Palestinians and against Mubarak's plan, and the signals that the coalition partnership may be disbanded notwithstanding, still the only way to promote a political initiative is through the Cabinet.

It should be borne in mind that in the Alignment, whenever Peres and Rabin do not clash, the party faces no splits. Even the doves in the party refrained from talking today about the need to disband the government now.

The National Religious Party [NRP] says that the Camp David syndrome must not repeat itself. Reports on deliberations held in secret must not be presented to the Knesset as a finished political product. The NRP wants coalition unity preserved.

In the religious camp, Minister Arye Der'i of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] maintains that a supreme effort must be made to preserve the unity government. This government, he believes, is the only government that can contend with the problems with which we are burdened. Minister Der'i is launching a series of meetings with Alignment and Likud leaders in order to bridge the gaps that have cracked open, as he puts it.

MAPAM [United Workers Party] says that it is necessary to choose between peace and conjugal truce. The party prefers peace to a government that misses the mediation talks. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 18 September adds that "MAPAM Secretary General El'azar Granot said that anyway, Minister Rabin is negotiating with 'Arafat through the Egyptian president."]

Nevertheless, since the key to the Cabinet's existence is ultimately in the Likud's and the Alignment's hands, and in view of the fact that the Likud is presently torn over the question of the government's future, it is necessary tonight, more than ever before, to pay close attention to the prime minister's comments. He said: I support unity, but some things are more important than unity.

U.S. 'Inertia' Seen Responsible for Stagnation

TA1509134589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Sep 89 p A1

[Commentary by Avraham Schweitzer: "The Middleman's Inertia"]

[Text] Few people are as good as Yitzhaq Rabin at discerning between fundamental and trivial issues. The same is even more poignantly true with regard to the Israeli peace initiative, which is often attributed to him. Nevertheless, here is Rabin saying that the main issue in the present, post-initial stage—which is crucial for the materialization of the next stage—is to find and solicit a local Palestinian, as opposed to Tunisian, interlocutor, who would join Israel in negotiations on the procedures for elections in the territories. It will be remembered that according to the initiative, elections are the first practical stage of the process designed to lead to a settlement.

Nevertheless, over 4 months later, that indispensable interlocutor has not been found. It stands to reason that he will not be found in the foreseeable future; not only—and as this article will argue, not mainly —because of the inflexible Israeli definition of the interlocutor's nature, and not merely because the PLO would do anything to be an overt partner in each stage of the negotiations. This apparently disintegrating package—that is, the premises that initially set the directly concerned parties, Israel and the Palestinians, on the track of rapprochement—was apparently based on an erroneous situation assessment.

The mistake of the two parties was the result of an incorrect evaluation of U.S. involvement. Minister David Levi may have exaggerated in stating this week that the Israeli initiative was born out of what he termed panic, but his statement touched the very core of the problem. In any event, Israel was not the only one to have panicked; the PLO did so to the same extent. At the end of 1988 and the beginning of 1989, the United States, including the new administration, appeared most determined to take action toward a settlement on Israel's eastern border. This determination seemed even more convincing in view of the fact that the old pretext of having to squint Soviet-ward before each move had lost whatever persuasive power it had in the past.

This determination convinced 'Arafat that he ought to utter some conciliatory pronouncements, which—despite sounding as if he were undergoing an unanesthetized root canal—did their job in presenting the post-Stockholm and post-Geneva 'Arafat as a man fully determined to strive toward a settlement with Israel. Israel, which was aware of the damage the intifadah [uprising] was causing to its image, could not afford to lag after 'Arafat.

Israel and the PLO, both convinced of U.S. determination, accepted what seemed at the time to be a coercive move, and began seeking out some sort of mediated encounter. The situation was carried to such an extreme that Israel actually—albeit, unwillingly—accepted the formal dialogue between the United States and the PLO, while the PLO accepted the fact that Washington had endorsed the Israeli peace initiative.

It took Israel and the PLO several weeks of probing the great American middleman's determination to find out that things were not as they appeared to be. And when they began realizing—even before becoming finally convinced—that peacemaking in the Holy Land is a desirable, though not vital U.S. target, they started reverting to their former selves. Yitzhaq Shamir's ex post facto consent to the braces attached by his party rivals to the initiative can be interpreted as the first sign of his sobering up from the evaluation that the United States cares a lot. The same can be said about the renewed PLO intransigence, which did not take a long time to form.

If the Palestinians, as well as the Israelis, were to seek further confirmation of Washington's less-than-moderate interest in the Middle East peace process, they would see how complacent Washington is: The half-hearted endorsement of President Mubarak's 10 simple points is the U.S. alibi for not grabbing the Israelis and the Palestinians by their necks and bashing their heads against each other to make them stop the nonsense and get down to business. The point is that now, after Moscow has lowered its international profile, the world balance of power allows the United States to be the godfather whose requests are not to be refused.

With our provincial Middle Eastern point of view, we see the actual U.S. order of priorities approximately thus: There are the drugs—the novelty is that they have been accorded top priority—as well as Central and South America, which derive from the drug issue; there is the Soviet Union, especially should anything dramatic happen there; there is Europe, both west and east, which is undergoing a disintegration of allegiances; after that, there is a vacuum; and then there are Israel, Falastin, and all the rest.

This was how things appeared to be during the presidential race and immediately after it; with after-the-fact wisdom, this is how the situation appears at present. So much so that even if a war were to break out in the region, it would probably be possible to limit it to the local arena; in any event, it is doubtful that the war would threaten to sweep the two superpowers (to one of which a temporary question mark is attached) into it. The unhappy conclusion is that the situation leaves a scope of activity unlimited in time and place to Shamir & Co. on the one hand, and to 'Arafat & Co. on the other.

Perhaps silence would be preferable at this juncture, not merely because prophesy was given to fools, as the old saying goes, but also because it is impossible to predict where that involuntary cooperation between the above protagonists will propel us.

However, two consequences—interrelated to a certain extent—can almost certainly be predicted. We and the Palestinians—the reference is to those who live in the

trap called Greater Israel—will continue sinking in the intifadah quagmire, in slaughter, and in the material bloodletting indiscriminately impoverishing both us and them.

Radicalization, both ideological and practical, is the inevitable result, as is usually the case in civil wars. At the same time, we will gradually adapt ourselves to the Middle East, adopt its customs and morals, and as a result, will draw farther and farther away from the West under whose influence—and to a certain extent, in whose name—we established the Jewish state.

We must not, however, share the guilt for all this with the Palestinians only (although the punishment will be entirely ours); part of that blame should be cast on the American middleman, who has signed a promissory note but refuses to pay up.

Prime Minister Sees Chance for Peace Initiative

TA1509111689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that in recent days there have been discussions on Israel's peace initiative and various sides have made proposals

In a meeting this morning with a British parliamentary delegation, the prime minister said that up to several days ago various elements disseminated reports that the peace initiative was dying. In recent days it appears that the initiative has not reached a stalemate and there is a chance that it might make progress. Mr Shamir added that people are mistaken in expecting quick results from a process which necessarily requires time.

He added that the Egyptian Government is in close contact with Palestinian elements. I do not know who is influencing whom, but we must continue along our path and advance the peace initiative, Shamir said.

Bethlehem Mayor on PLO Rejecting Mubarak Plan

TA1709190189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says the PLO has not rejected the Egyptian plan. Frayj returned home today after a meeting in Tunis with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. He spoke of his talks with 'Arafat with reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Frayj] Well, we discussed the situation in the West Bank and Gaza, we discussed the Israeli proposal for elections, we discussed the Egyptian 10 points, and we discussed how to move the peace process.

[Ze'ev] There have been conflicting reports over whether the PLO has accepted the Egyptian plan.

[Frayj] Well, the Egyptian plan is under serious consideration by the PLO.

[Ze'ev] But does that mean they have not made up their minds officially, completely yet?

[Frayj] Well, the fact that Mr 'Arafat has been to Cairo three times in 1 week is a positive indication.

[Ze'ev] 'Arafat's media adviser, Bassam Abu-Sharif, offered in fact to come to Israel to speak to Labor Party ministers, but the PLO dissociated itself from his comments. How do you explain that?

[Frayj] Well, in the PLO people are (?usually) free to speak and say what they want, and it was a personal initiative by Bassam Abu-Sharif, and I think he was a clever one to say what he said.

[Ze'ev] What do you see as the next step?

[Frayj] Well, I believe these moves—whether in Cairo, or in Tunis, or in Washington—would eventually lead, within the next few weeks, perhaps 3 months, to some kind of an Israeli-Palestinian meeting. [end recording]

Urges 'Arafat, PNC To Accept Plan

TA1709200789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj held a meeting with a senior Civil Administration officer today to clarify details about his meeting in Tunis with Yasir 'Arafat. The Israeli officer was waiting for Frayj at Allenby Bridge upon his return from Tunis via Amman today. The Bethlehem mayor said he had recommended that 'Arafat and the other Palestine National Council [PNC] members accept Mubarak's plan. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports:

[Nahmias] His grandchildren waited more than 2 hours for the head of the family to return home from Amman. Later it transpired that Ilyas Frayj was delayed longer than expected at Allenby Bridge. A senior Civil Administration officer had waited for him there to ask him for initial, authoritative details on his meeting with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat.

Ilyas Frayj reported that he had decided to hold that meeting on his own and did not seek approval from anyone. In Tunis he briefed the Palestinian leadership on the situation in the territories, responding to many questions about the Israeli political scene. He urged his interlocutors there to accept the Mubarak plan. [passage omitted]

Frayj held two private sessions with 'Arafat in Tunis, and also met with the PNC plenum. He maintained that the names of the Palestinians suggested as possible delegates for negotiations with Israel were not raised. A decision was made, however, that the PLO and only the PLO would appoint them, and that they would be inhabitants of the territories and expatriates.

Ilyas Frayj is the first notable from the territories who has openly reported on a private meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Resumption of Hungarian Ties

TA1809121289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good day, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Good day.

[Einstein] What was your reaction to the signing of the agreement on the resumption of full relations with Hungary?

[Shamir] I received it with joy and satisfaction, of course. A few minutes ago I spoke on the telephone to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. I asked him to send personal greetings to the Hungarian prime minister and the other ministers I had managed to meet during my previous visits to Hungary. I praised our foreign minister on his achievement and expressed the hope that the resumption of diplomatic ties between us and Hungary will be the first breakthrough into East Europe and that following the signing of this agreement, accords with other East European capitals will follow.

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, what held up the accord on the resumption of full relations? Over recent months, we heard reports that an agreement was expected at any moment, but it was postponed each time, or was this the expected timetable?

[Shamir] I thought you were going to ask me why we signed it now, but you want to complain about the delays.

[Einstein] I am not complaining, I am simply asking.

[Shamir] Hungary is the first East European country to decide on such a move, despite the various difficulties and obstacles. I dealt with this issue personally for a long time, and I know the reasons for the delays. Some of them were tied to relations between Hungary and other countries in that bloc. It was a courageous and daring decision by the Hungarian Government to be the pioneer in this field by announcing normal relations with the State of Israel.

[Einstein] Mr Prime Minister, what do we expect from the resumption of relations with Hungary?

[Shamir] First, it is a diplomatic achievement which, as I said before, could be echoed in the other East European countries. It is important for us to expand the map of Israel's diplomatic relations to include that part of the world as well. In addition, it raises our prestige in the eyes of other countries in the West and in other regions. It shows that Israel is advancing and that the campaign to blaspheme it in the international arena is not making any headway and is not holding up Israel's progress.

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, you visited Hungary twice. One visit, conducted about a year ago, was described as private and was covered in a veil of secrecy. Can you now perhaps reveal the contents of that visit? With whom did you meet? What did you discuss?

[Shamir] The visit was very important. I met with the prime minister, the general secretary of the Communist Party, and the foreign minister. I was given an analysis of all our chances in the entire Eastern bloc. The conclusion then was that Hungary could not overcome the existing difficulties and obstacles to take such a step, but I was promised that it would come soon. I see that they have kept their promise. At the time, I also received a precise briefing on each country in that area.

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, in conclusion, you said that the resumption of these ties in fact symbolizes a breakthrough for a resumption of ties with other Eastern bloc countries. Do you have any idea which East bloc country will be next to restore relations with us?

[Shamir] I have an idea, but I do not wish to make public forecasts, because it might be harmful.

[Einstein] Thank you, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Hungary's Nemeth on Relations

TA1809162389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth has said that the resumption of diplomatic ties between his country and Israel is a historic moment. Prime Minister Nemeth said this at the end of a brief meeting he held with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who came to Budapest for a blitz visit of 3 and ½ hours to sign the declaration on the resumption of diplomatic relations.

Our envoy in Budapest reports that during his meeting with Minister Arens, Nemeth said that he is contemplating visiting Israel in accordance with an invitation handed to him by Prime Minister Shamir during his visit to Hungary some time ago.

A modest ceremony will be held in Budapest tomorrow, during which the Israeli flag will be hoisted at the top of the building which has to date served as the Israeli representation; this ceremony will turn the building into an embassy.

Israel's first ambassador to Hungary will be Shlomo Merom, the man who currently heads the interests office in Budapest. The first Hungarian ambassador to Israel following the 22-year break will be one of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry's deputy directors general.

Agreement on Ties Signed

LD1809114289 Jerusalem International Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens flew to Budapest this morning to sign an agreement on the restoration of full diplomatic relations between Israel and Hungary. The trip was kept secret until the last minute. In an interview with Kol Yisrael this morning Arens talked only about his trip to the United States and made no mention of Hungary. With me in our studio is our political affairs correspondent (Jack Katznel). Jack, why was the trip kept secret? Why was all this kept secret until the last minute?

[(Katznel)] Well, let me just add that the agreement was signed half an hour ago. The reason it was kept secret was that the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem was very anxious that it shouldn't be splashed over Israel's newspapers this morning because this is the kind of thing which has upset several of the eastern European countries in the past. So this time the word was: until the thing actually happens we don't talk about it.[passage omitted]

'Arafat To Adopt 'Swedish Initiative'

TA1909110289 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Reliable sources have informed 'AL HAMISHMAR that Yasir 'Arafat is expected to present a new PLO initiative for elections in the territories during his speech at the UN General Assembly. The sources also reported that as a result of the strong opposition voiced by the PLO Executive Committee to 'Arafat's 10-point plan, he now intends to adopt the "Swedish initiative" currently being formulated in contacts between the Swedish Government and Eugene Makhluf, the PLO representative in Copenhagen.

Israeli sources believe that the Swedish initiative, which was actually launched by Swedish Foreign Minister Andersson in June 1989, has greater chances of being accepted by the extremists in the PLO. The Swedes intend, in coordination with the PLO and with the knowledge of the United States, to publish their plan in conjunction with the Mubarak initiative, as soon as discussions on the Middle East commence at the UN General Assembly this week in New York.

Levi Prefers 'Eretz Yisra'el to Cabinet Unity

TA1809155889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] No part of Eretz Yisra'el should be ceded, even if this demands the dissolution of the national unity government, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said today during a tour of Ashdod. Our correspondent Roni Sofer has excerpts of Levi's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Sofer] David Levi, deputy prime minister and construction and housing minister, strongly attacked President Mubarak's 10-point initiative today. During a tour of Ashdod, Minister Levi also said that he would insist that the braces imposed on the Israeli initiative, as they were adopted by the Likud Central Committee, be honored. Furthermore, he said, if the conflict with the Alignment on the political issue leads to the dissolution of the unity government, this would still be preferable to giving up parts of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Levi] The Cabinet cannot, under any circumstances, accept a state of affairs in which we are presented with a dictated plan that includes all the things the Cabinet rejected only yesterday on the grounds that they constitute a threat to our very existence. Consequently, although I want to preserve the Cabinet—in whose formation I played a substantial role—we cannot say: Let us preserve the Cabinet and the devil take Eretz Yisra'el.

[Sofer] In other words, sir, what you are saying is that if this conflict continues, we will disband the government, or I for one will recommend that the government be dissolved.

[Levi] First of all, I never said this. Second, I say: Let us have an Inner Cabinet session on the matter. The Likud's position is clear and the party is united. The Alignment must decide which way it is going. We support preserving the Cabinet, but not at the cost of Eretz Yisra'el. Therefore, if the Alignment decides to secede, that will be its own decision. Yet it is inconceivable that we be threatened, day in and day out, by being told: If you do not do something, we will disband the government! [end recording]

Analyst Expresess 'Second Thoughts' on Elections

TA1809143189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Sep 89 p 9

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Second Thoughts on Elections in the Territories"]

[Text] Almost unnoticed, at the fringes of the carnival surrounding Mubarak's 10 points, an important development has taken place in the political process which completely changes the basic data. There is still no room for talks on a breakthrough; this does not mean we are on the verge of the first official Israeli-Palestinian meeting, but the ground has been laid for a future one.

Without its being felt, the focus of the talks has moved from the issue of the nature of the elections—although the Egyptian points were drafted around them—to the formation of a delegation acceptable to all sides in order to begin negotiations with Israel. It has become apparent that the obstacle in forming this delegation is the elections themselves. For this reason, Israeli circles—most likely, the defense minister's—and Egyptian circles are having second thoughts about the idea of elections.

When one examines the difficulties of forming a delegation, it becomes apparent that the elections are an obstacle everyone wants to see removed. For example, at the preliminary talks the idea of elections will be discussed before the problem of Jerusalem, despite the fact that this very emotional issue should be raised only after other problems, none of which are simple, have been settled. The difficult debate over IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployment during and after elections has already started at this early stage. Obviously, it is in Israeli interests to deploy its forces in the West Bank in line with those security needs agreed on during the negotiations, not before. The issue of international support also creates problems for Israel, because when the Qezi'ot inmates file their candidacies, Israel will have to face the serious problem of credibility.

It should also be remembered just how the idea of elections came up. During his first 3 years as defense minister, Yitzhaq Rabin objected to elections to local councils (that were held twice before, in 1972 and 1976), claiming that democracy does not exist in the Arab world. There is no reason, therefore, for the territories to have democracy. He changed his mind when he realized that the intifadah [uprising] erupted with no direct order from the PLO, and that it was followed by erosion and an extremist shift in the Fatah position. At that time, Rabin had not yet freed himself from his uncompromising hatred of the PLO, believing that through extremist groups in the territories he could "knock out" 'Arafat by holding elections there.

Rabin basically relied on the increasing power of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. At a certain point, however, he discovered that nurturing extremist groups could result in playing with fire. The defense establishment attributed the Sasportas [an IDF soldier found dead in Gaza] affair to Hamas, which led to its being outlawed and its leaders imprisoned. At this point Rabin realized that Israel's interest would be to find common ground with the moderates among the supporters of 'Arafat. The question remains: Why hold elections that would get Hamas leaders out of prison?

The first practical signal of Rabin's intention to reach an understanding with moderate elements in the PLO was the authorization extended to 'Arafat supporters in the territories to come and go as they please, a move which means that they could serve as an indirect channel of communication with Tunis. A clearer signal was given in Lebanon. A tacit cease-fire has recently been established between Israel and 'Arafat in Lebanon: 'Arafat's Fatah does not take part in infiltrations into Israel from the northern border, while Air Force planes avoid 'Arafat's headquarters during raids in Lebanon.

If the PLO's moderate stream has become Israel's desirable partner, then it is there at our beck and call. All we need are the right conditions to compose a delegation and start talking.

As far as Fatah and the pragmatic elements are concerned, they also would rather their people enter negotiations with Israel while skipping the elections, letting 'Arafat appoint the Palestinian representatives through consultations with Egypt. But since Israel is so sensitive to everything that mentions the name PLO, they would be prepared to let Mubarak utter the names that 'Arafat decides on beforehand.

Many variations of an election process are constantly under way in the territories, with the Palestinians engaged in electing representatives to the various bodies; Fatah, therefore, could get quite a good idea of the results of the elections for representatives in the negotiations. Elections to student organizations in the universities were regularly scheduled even before the intifadah. Although the lists of 'Arafat supporters usually won, the picture was not all that clear-cut. The religious lists won in several locations. In Hebron, for example, the Islamic list took power, while in al-Najah University in Nabulus the fundamentalists gained such power that they could call off studies over their demand for ownership of the mosque. Al-Najah University was therefore paralyzed due to fundamentalist pressure even before Rabin closed it permanently. There is no need to expand on fundamentalist power in the Gaza Strip.

As Israel's policy in the territories grew more brutal, so the strength of the extremists increased, at the expense of Fatah. This was manifested upon the outbreak of the intifadah. Thus, from Fatah's standpoint, the elections held last week to the bar association—a moderate union which rejected the extremists' demand for the renunciation of the Israeli legal system—were not clear-cut, and Fatah and its supporters were forced to enter into a coalition with the Communists. The significance of all this is that if anyone expects to come up with a delegation for negotiations out of the elections, they will get a tough representation that may be less dependent on Fatah, but will also be the opposite of what Israel hopes for—that the Tunis faction of Fatah will be much more moderate and pragmatic than the elected delegates, who will be supporters of organizations more radical than Fatah. That is to say, one of the premises that must be taken into account is that Fatah-Tunis is much more moderate than the moods in the territories. This presents a picture that is quite different from the situation that prevailed on the eve of the intifadah.

These days, when 'Arafat examines the reactions in his camp—for or against Mubarak's initiative—he reaches the surprising conclusion that those pressing for it to be accepted are his men in Tunis, such as Bassam Abu-Sharif and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], while the reactions from the territories vary from wary support, through restraint, to outright rejection. As could be expected, last week Hamas totally rejected the initiative. It is not the only one. All of the leftist Palestinian organizations clearly agree with the stand presented by Hamas and its allies in the Unified National Command of the Uprising, such as the Communist Party and the Democratic Front.

The Communist leader Bashir al-Baraghuthi has written in his weekly column in AL-TALI'AH, the party's organ, that Mubarak's initiative does not mention the PLO at all and does not note the right of self-determination. He doubts Egypt's ability to convince Washington to pressure Israel and believes that it would not be wise to sever the alliance with Western Europe and the USSR in favor of a treaty with Egypt. Faysal al-Husayni, a most prominent 'Arafat supporter, has stated that Mubarak's plan is "insufficient" and that a declaration of intentions that would incorporate the Palestinian right to self-determination is required to make it complete.

Bassam al-Shak'ah, one of the figures who clearly states his opposition to 'Arafat, has totally rejected the notion of elections under an occupying regime. Referring to the incident in which he lost both his legs, he said that the Palestinians have had their experience with elections Israeli-style and that another type of elections will only be possible after a full Israeli withdrawal.

'Arafat and Egypt are well aware of the fact that Rabin has no intention of starting to promote the idea of a democratic process in the territories—just the opposite. The burden imposed by the Israeli military government is getting heavier by the day in its attempt to "bust the hard core of the intifadah." This started a hunt for the masked men in which ricochets kill small children—an unprecedented drive to increase the Palestinian feeling of anger, frustration, and rage. Perhaps Rabin believed that the escalation would yield the opposite results. The territories have been holding Fatah abroad back from reaching an agreement. If an agreement on the elections is reached, they might become the channel for protest and revenge that could foil the whole political process.

Dropping the elections element from the political plan would still not make the process satisfactory. The Likud, for example, is not willing to drop the elections because it fears that fast-breaking developments could take matters out of control. It is just these endless complications in the elections plan that enable the Likud to gracefully stroll through the political process, hoping that Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay will quell the intifadah in the meantime. Speaking on Israel Television in Arabic 2 weeks ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his full trust in Israel's power "to put an end to the violence."

Washington was quick to respond to Israeli reports that Egypt is seeking an "alternative" to the elections plan. The response was rather nervous. The Americans made it clear that they still adhere to the elections plan and that they do not believe it needs to be replaced. Whoever is familiar with the orderly and organized American way of thinking could easily discern why: They have invested great amounts of energy and prestige in the notion of elections. It is hard for them to conceive of it all having been in vain. It is possible that the Americans, just like the Likud, want to supervise the whole process and are not in a hurry.

Now that the focus is on forming the delegation and not on the elections plan itself, the parties can deal more with the framework of the meeting. This is how the idea to convene a minisummit in Cairo was born, with the Labor Party fingerprints clearly visible all over it. The media has reported that the Americans are in favor of this idea, though this is doubtful, especially if it mentions joint U.S.-USSR auspices. The Americans have an exclusive channel of communication with the PLO—through their Ambassador Pelletreau in Tunis—and they do not believe it has been exhausted yet. Al-Baraghuthi's suspicions, as quoted above, also represent Soviet doubts about this idea. Furthermore, we have not yet mentioned the expected negative Likud stand toward such a minisummit.

Egypt can supposedly state the facts and provide the names of the Palestinian delegation members; there is doubt whether they would, however, take such a hasty step. As long as there is no Likud agreement to the entire move, those figures, if named, would be exposed to such massive pressure from both the Palestinian opposition and the settlers that it would wipe out the possibility of repeating a similar move in the future.

Jordan was the first to notice the transformations the political process is undergoing. As early as last Thursday, a Jordanian diplomat in New York called for a return to the framework of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in which the PLO would appoint its representatives. Earlier, Prince Hasan expressed support for the Mubarak plan, but he spoke of an international conference—which is not mentioned in the 10 points—and of "national" rights, as opposed to the "political" rights mentioned in the Egyptian version.

Therefore, abandoning the idea of elections would advance the political moves significantly. The difficulties, however, are still great. Despite the psychological breakthrough achieved by Egypt, it is still hard to see a real breakthrough on the horizon.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Concludes Visit

Confers With 'Innab

JN1709163389 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] The minister of trade and industry, Mr Ziyad 'Innab, and the visiting Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, co-chaired a meeting at the Ministry of Trade and Industry today.

During the meeting, Mr 'Innab welcomed the Chinese delegation and talked about means of strengthening relations with China.

The Chinese minister welcomed the ideas proposed by Mr 'Innab and said he will convey the ideas to the Chinese authority.

The two ministers agreed to revive the role of the joint Jordanian-Chinese committee. They agreed for the committee to convene next year to draw plans for developing bilateral relations in health, technical, social, economic, and trade fields.

Received by Prime Minister

JN1809113189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also attended the meeting.

They reviewed regional and international issues with a special emphasis on the Middle East, Lebanese questions, and the Iraq-Iran dispute. The officials stressed the need to solve these problems on the basis of international law and UN and Security Council resolutions. They also emphasized the need to find a peaceful, durable solution to the Middle East question by meeting legitimate Palestinian rights. In addition, they discussed Jordan-PRC relations and how to boost them in the mutual interest of the two friendly peoples.

The meeting was attended by the PRC ambassador to Amman and the Jordanian ambassador to Beijing.

Meets With Planning Minister

JN1809192689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The Jordanian side, headed by Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz, and the PRC side, headed by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, held a meeting at the Planning Ministry today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed economic and trade relations between Jordan and the PRC.

Fariz reviewed economic developments in the Arab region and their impact on Jordan's economy. He also explained Jordan's economic reform program and the development investment program in light of decisions to support the private sector, encourage investment by providing more opportunities, and define ways of promoting investment. The minister also pointed to the establishment of a number of export-oriented industries within the Kingdom and new efforts to encourage and bolster exports in order to promote Jordan's national economy.

For his part, the PRC foreign minister praised the distinguished relations beween the two friendly countries—relations which are growing as a result of the opening of more channels of communication in various economic, development, and investment areas. He pointed out that the meetings of the Jordanian-PRC joint committee, which are expected to be held at the beginning of next year, will try to specify and detail priorities in the cooperation program, focus on problems that hamper action, and find practical solutions to them.

PRC Minister Departs

JN1809160989 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Amman, 18 Sep (PETRA)—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen left Amman at noon today concluding a 3-day official visit to Jordan during which he conveyed a letter from the Chinese leadership to His Majesty King Husayn. [passage omitted]

In a predeparture statement, Mr Qian said that during his visit he explored with ministers avenues of economic, trade, and industrial cooperation between the PRC and Jordan, indicating the existence of great potential for relations in these areas, and that they will be realized in the future. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the following press statement has been issued on the PRC foreign minister's visit to Jordan:

In response to an invitation by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen paid a visit to Jordan between 16 and 18 September 1989.

The guest had the honor of being received by his majesty the king and gave him a letter from His Excellency President Yang Shangkun. The guest minister was also received by his excellency the prime minister.

In an atmophere of understanding and friendship, the Jordanian and Chinese sides held broad talks on bilateral ties and regional and global political developments. The talks revealed broad bilateral agreement on all matters of common interest.

The sides voiced their satisfaction over the status of their relations and stressed their interest in seeing them further developed and expanded in the political, economic, trade, cultural, and scientific domains.

On regional and international issues, both sides emphasized that only through political means can the Middle

East problem be resolved and that a comprehensive, just, and durable settlement must be worked out by a UN-sponsored international conference attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—plus the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

In this regard, both sides noted the positive stance of the PLO and Arab support for that approach. They condemned Israel's persistent intransigence and the brutal fashion in which it is handling of the valiant Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The PRC side expressed its appreciation for Jordan's efforts led by His Majesty King Husayn in the interest of peace in the Middle East.

The Jordanian side lauded China's support for just Arab causes, notably the Palestinian cause.

On Lebanon, both sides underscored their support for the country's unity, independence, and territorial integrity, and the need for Lebanon to exercise full sovereignty free of any external interference, as well as the need for an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory.

Both sides welcomed the reactivation of the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon to seek an Arab-sponsored solution to the country's crisis. They hoped all parties will be receptive to these efforts and that obstacles impeding the committee's work will be removed. Both sides also expressed their full support for the committee as well as all Arab efforts geared toward a resolution of the Lebanese crisis.

On the standoff between Iraq and Iran, both sides agreed on the need for the present cease-fire to be developed into a permanent peace. Such a peace would need to be based on the full implementation of the 1988 UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the 8 August 1988 agreement, and through direct negotiations, which they hoped would resume soon.

On Cambodia, both sides stressed the need for a withdrawal of foreign forces and a political settlement. They further emphasized the importance of honoring the countries' sovereignty and noninterference in their internal affairs.

The guest minister expressed his deep gratitude for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during their visit to the kingdom.

More Active PRC Role Urged

JN1709105689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Sep 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Will Beijing Come Closer to the Region's Issues?"]

[Text] PRC Foreign Affairs Minister Qian Qichen's official visit to Jordan, which began yesterday, and the topics listed on the agenda of his talks with senior Jordanian officials reflect the conviction of PRC officials regarding the importance of developing existing bilateral relations. The visit also reflects their awareness of the importance of the Jordanian role in the region.

Relations between Amman and Beijing were launched on the ambassadorial level in 1977. These relations were marked by the conclusion of bilateral trade, technical, and cultural agreements. These ties were enhanced further by King Husayn's official visit to the PRC in 1983 and the PRC president's official visit to Jordan in 1984.

It is to be recalled that the PRC foreign affairs minister's visit to Amman is the first leg of a regional tour that will take him to Egypt, Syria, and Tunisia. The topics listed on the agenda of talks are the Palestine question, the Lebanese plight, the need to reach a settlement between Iraq and Iran, and Jordanian-PRC ties.

In light of this, the tour by Qian Qichen shows that Beijing intends to associate itself further with the region's issues through the talks that he will hold in Amman, Cairo, Damascus, and Tunis. It goes without saying that this trend must be coupled by a more active PRC effort within the UN Security Council to help expedite the convening of the desired international conference needed to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question. Such a settlement must be based on the principle of trading land for peace and also on recognizing the Palestinian people's right to exercise their national rights on their soil, particularly their right to self-determination.

Moreover, this trend must also be coupled with a more active effort on the part of the PRC to help convince the Iranian regime of the need to establish true peace with Iraq. This is because the cease-fire between Baghdad and Tehran can never serve as a substitute for establishing peace between them, particularly when taking into account the fact that Iraq has, for a long time, been extending its hand to achieve this noble purpose. It also goes without saying that Beijing has stable ties with Tehran—ties which qualify Beijing to play this role.

The PRC's positive stands vis-a-vis Arab issues constitute a good asset that can contribute to the success of the PRC foreign affairs minister's Middle East tour. This asset deserves to be bolstered to further enhance PRC-Arab ties. We sincerely hope that this tour will help achieve this objective.

Prince Hasan Returns Home From U.S. Visit

JN1809154989 Amman Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] His majesty the king received His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Princess Tharwat upon arrival from Washington following a working visit to the United States during which Prince Hasan met the U.S. President George Bush, the vice president, and the secretary of state.

During his visit, his royal highness delivered lectures on the current developments in the Middle East in a number of American universities and met a number of Jordanian expatriates in Chicago. His royal highness was accompanied on the visit by an official delegation which comprised the foreign minister, the planning minister, and a number of officials.

Swedish Delegation Promotes Bilateral Ties

Foreign Minister Arrives

JN1809154689 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Amman, 18 Sep (PETRA)—Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson arrived in Amman today to join the delegation accompanying Swedish King His Majesty Carl Gustaf, who is due to arrive in Amman this evening.

Andersson praised Jordan's effective role under His Majesty King Husayn both in the Arab and internaional arenas in supporting the peace efforts in the Middle East region.

In a statement to the press following is arrival in Jordan, Andersson said that Jordan and Sweden maintain close, friendly relations. The forthcoming visit to Jordan by His Majesty King Gustaf and Her Majesty Queen Silvia is aimed at promoting these relations, he stated, adding that many factors exist which will support the enhancement of ties.

Andersson condemned the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories. He said that his country opposes the occupation of territories by force, referring to his country's continued demand for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories to achieve a just peace in the region.

He expressed his country's support for the convening of an international peace conference to be attended by all the parties involved in the dispute, including the PLO which, he said, is considered by his country the representative of the Palestinian people.

He added that such a conference could contribute to solving the Middle East crisis if international guarantees and appropriate preparations were secured.

Andersson also voiced his country's readiness to play any role in promoting the peace process in the region and in achieving a desired solution that can guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, as well as the rights of all the region's countries and peoples in accordance with international laws and charters.

Andersson was received at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials; al-Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, Jordan's nonresident ambassador to Sweden; and the Swedish ambasador to Amman.

Swedish King, Queen Arrive

JN1809163389 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] His Majesty King Carl Gustaf and Her Majesty Queen Silvia arrived in Amman today on an 8-day official visit to Jordan in response to an invitation from his majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur. Their majesties were accorded an official welcoming ceremony led by his majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur. Taking part in the welcoming ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative; Princess Taghrid; His Royal Highness Prince Hasan; Princess Tharwat; and a number of the royal family. The prime minister and the chief of the Royal Court, the parliament speaker, his majesty the king's advisers, and senior officials also took part in the welcoming ceremony.

King Husayn Welcomes Guests

JN1809204689 Amman Television Service in English 1910 GMT 18 Sep 89

["Text" of speech by King Husayn at a dinner banquet hosted in honor of King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in Amman on 18 September; Husayn speaks in Arabic — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate: Your Majesty King Carl Gustaf, Your Majesty Queen Silvia, ladies and gentlemen: It is my great pleasure, your majesties, that you have given us this opportunity to welcome you both in Amman. Queen Nur shares with me the joy of expressing the warmest feelings of happiness at your presence with us in our country on this occasion, which we have been looking forward to.

This joyful occasion also gives me the opportunity to convey my greetings and love and the welcome of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's government and people to you personally, Your Majesties, and to the government and people of Sweden, which we hold in high esteem.

This occasion also reminds me and Queen Nur of the pleasant days we spent in your beautiful country in October 1984 in response to your honorable invitation. It also brings to my mind the progressive concepts we experienced during that visit, and the honest and permament friendship we have with your friendly country.

Your honorable visit, Your Majesty, affirms, among other things, the depth of relations between us based on lofty principles and joint noble values which our two people adhere to out of loyalty to the goal of establishing peace in the world and honest cooperation between nations for their progress and prosperity.

While we are honored to have you in our country, with and through you we honor the Kingdom of Sweden

which occupies a distinguished position in our contemporary world, thus gaining the respect and appreciation of various countries and nations.

This status, whose threads were woven by the Swedish people's historic experiences, is based on what Sweden stands for today. It has become a model reference to the international community for numerous aspects of humanitarian issues, whether on the level of your national reality with its democratic, educational, and social institutions, or on the level of your international and humanitarian role.

Your neutrality, as distinct from isolation which you have adopted as a policy and course for your international relations, has spared you the tragedies of war and enhanced your international credibility, making you an active and effective element in resolving international disputes and dealing with urgent issues confronting humanity, foremost of which are the issues of disarmament and preserving the environmental system of our planet Earth.

Naturally, since this has been your policy, you have played a prominent role in supporting the UN development programs and the peacekeeping operations all over the world, in addition to your individual initiatives in the field of humanitarian services and help.

Your Majesty, our region was and still is fertile ground where you have translated, and still do, your highly appreciated intiatives, values, and examples which the Kingdom of Sweden represents.

The late Count Bernadotte, Olof Palme, and Ambassador Gunnar Jarring are brilliant names in our national memory. They affirm the credibility of your country and its distinguished role in attempts to solve disputes which still storm our region.

Fanaticism, greed, lust for power, interference in the internal affairs of others, the claim of a monopoly on truth, and denial of the legitimate rights of nations are factors that have kindled the wars which have scorched the Middle East region. If some of these wars have abated, the possibility of their re-eruption still exists so long as the factors inflaming them are still alive. Therefore, the need for individual and collective efforts to solve the Middle East crisis grows in urgency.

We are deeply anxious to see the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran turn into a permanent peace agreement. We appeal to the new Iranian Government to deal with the the issue of exchanging the Iraqi and Iranian POW's through a humanitarian concept apart from propaganda and political maneuver. We are also anxious to see Lebanon return to its situation which prevailed 2 decades ago, a beautiful garden full of prosperity and perfume, of education and art, after it has become in recent years a jungle to which the outlaws resort.

What is happening in Beirut these days is a real human tragedy. We thought that the civilized world was content only with reading about such crises in history books. We thought it would not return alive to the world and we would see its chapters through the mass media without being able to do anything.

Regarding the issue of the Palestinian people, which constitutes the oldest issue on the UN agenda, Israel's position paralyzing the just and comprehensive settlement has never been as evident as today. After more than 22 years of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories in Palestine and the Golan Heights, Israel is still rejecting the basic principles in the essence of the peace settlement. It is the principle of land for peace on which the whole world has been unanimous. This is represented in Security Council Resolution 242 issued in 1967. It also rejects the framework represented in convening an international peace conference on the Middle East through which negotiations will be held. Despite the courageous and responsible position adopted by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which has accepted coexistence of the two states on the land of Palestine and shown readiness to negotiate with Israel on this basis, the Israeli Government is still refusing to deal with the PLO.

The Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising], which is courageous and rich with sacrifices, is the natural expression of the rejection of this fait accompli which Israel insists on. Through its intransigent position, Israel is trying to complicate the situation in the entire area, spurning international law, denying the right to self-determination, and continuing repressive measures against the Palestinian people. All this is well known to the world's nations. The just and comprehensive settlement will lead to the region's security and stability. It is also a basis for development and prosperity for everyone.

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your friendly country for its support for the principles of a peace settlement in our region and for the current efforts to achieve that, trusting that the Kingdom of Sweden will continue its endeavors in this regard as part of the recent Swedish diplomatic efforts to create appropriate circumstances that have led to a dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

Your Majesty, Jordan is a small country in its resources, territory, and population. Despite the tense regional situation it is experiencing, and despite the difficulties it is facing, Jordan has achieved a lot and can achieve a lot in the climate of peace and stability—which we have always tried and are trying to achieve despite all the difficult circumstances—adhering to confidence in the future and in the fact that peace, justice, and legitimacy will finally achieve victory.

Contacts between our two countries will deepen bilateral relations and will benefit our two peoples. In fact, we are deeply satisfied with the ongoing cooperation between

our two kingdoms, trusting that your visit will raise its level and will deepen it. I should not fail to mention our gratitide for Sweden's contribution to the success of our development plans, your assistance in developing electricity grid and communications, not to mention the noble and humanitarian services of the Swedish home for individual relief service.

Your majesty, in conclusion, I take pleasure in repeating my welcome to you and Her Majesty Queen Siliva, and in inviting all present to stand in salute to His Majesty Karl Gustaf, Her Majesty Queen Silvia, and Jordanian-Swedish friendship. Peace and blessings be with you.

King Gustaf Delivers Speech

JN1809204089 Amman Television Service in English 1922 GMT 18 Sep 89

["Text" of speech by Swedish King Carl Gustaf in English at a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by King Husayn in Amman on 18 September—recorded]

[Text] Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Highness, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a great honor for me to be in Jordan for the first state visit from Sweden to your country. Queen Silvia and myself thank you for inviting us and for receiving us in such a magnificent manner. We are very happy to be here, and we are looking forward to an exciting week in Jordan.

We still remember with joy Your Majesties' visit to Sweden in 1984. It was for us personally a rewarding visit. There were also important talks on international matters between your majesty and the late Prime Minister Olof Palme. Moreover, your visit served as a starting point for many bilateral contacts and projects. Your Majesty Queen Nur signed an agreement with the (Relavon), which today has resulted in an institute for children's health and development in Amman.

Allow me, Your Majesty, to express my deep satisfaction over the excellent and expanding bilateral relations between Jordan and Sweden. Many high-level visits are now extended between our countries. His royal highness the crown prince and Princess Tharwat have honored us with a visit. The Swedish minister of foreign affairs, Mr Sten Andersson, was here last year, and today he is back together with me in Jordan. Many other ministerial visits have taken place in both directions, and more, I believe, are planned. There are considerable prospects for economic cooperation between our two countries. Organized by the Swedish Trade Council, a Swedish trade delegation is also visiting Jordan during this week. Its members represent Swedish companies in sectors such as health care, energy, communication, and food processing. And I hope that their various activities, such as exhibitions and seminars, will help to strengthen the economic cooperation between our two countries. As an expression of their long-term commitment to Jordan, four of the companies have decided to offer a scholarship to young Jordanians for management studies in Sweden.

Exchange of ideas and know-how between our countries has been going on for several years. Road-paving and construction, water treatment and city planning are just some of the fields where we have cooperated. Now telephone communications and electricity are in the forefront. Other common areas are environment and forestry. A regional environmental institute in Amman is being planned by a Swedish research institution. For various reasons, health care has become a hallmark in our cooperation, as our program in Jordan this week indicates. Your most advanced medical institutions are of world standards, and we welcome that Jordanian and Swedish doctors meet and also form, as they did, a special association to exchange ideas. And I look forward to addressing a Jordanian-Swedish seminar on the prevention of handicaps. The Swedish Home in Suwaylih, which this year celebrates its 20 years in Jordan, is the best known Swedish this name in this country, and the (Relavon) institute, also in Suwaylih, intitiated by her majesty the queen is another successful project.

There is a growing interest in my country in Arab culture and in the Middle East. Many Swedish students now show interest in Middle East studies. Also in the fields of history, ecology, and arts a growing interest is felt. The fact that Sweden in recent years has received many immigrants from the Middle East also promotes this interest, as does Sweden's participation in peacekeeping operations in 19 nations. Sweden and Jordan are both relatively small countries. As such, we have particular interest in the respect for the principles of international law in the conduct of war affairs. Respect for these principles is a basic requirement for solutions to conflicts both in the part of the world where I come from, and in the Middle East and elswhere. I wish to express my own and Queen Silvia's best wishes for peace and security to this part of the world; for the good relations between our two countries, Sweden and Jordan; for the success and well-being of Jordan and its people; and for your majesty's and Queen Nur's health and happiness. So would you all like to join me in standing up in saluting His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur, please.

Ibrahimi Terms Talks with 'Awn 'Useful,' 'Positive'

NC1809111189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0918 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, emissary of the Arab tripartite committee, conferred with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn between 1100 and 1200 today. Following the meeting, Ibrahimi described the meeting as positive and useful, but he declined to comment on whether he conveyed any Arab guarantees to the prime minister concerning the statement issued by the committee. Here is a recording of Ibrahimi's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Ibrahimi] I have only one thing to say. My talks with General 'Awn were useful and positive, and we discussed the implementation of the Arab committee's decision. Consultations with other parties are continuing, and I hope to meet the general again tomorrow.

[Unidentified reporter] Did you convey any Arab guarantees to the prime minister concerning certain issues?

[Ibrahimi] I have no comment. We will meet again tomorrow. I do not answer any questions. [two preceding sentences spoken in English]

[Unidentified reporter] Just one clarification is needed. In the committee's statement there was a sentence saying that thanks are due the Syrian forces for helping Lebanon. We want a clarification, Mr Ambassador: for what do we thank the Syrians? For the innocent victims in Lebanon?

[Ibrahimi] I will not answer any provocative questions. I will see you tomorrow, God willing. [end recording]

As you have heard, Lakhdar Ibrahimi declined to answer journalists' questions. We have learned that he left B'abda Palace for the Foreign Ministry to meet with the ministry's Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lam'. He is also scheduled to meet with the Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' and with the Lebanese Front Leader Deputy George Sa'adah. He will also visit Patriarch Sfayr. And, as you heard, he will return tomorrow to B'abda Palace for another

Comments on, Reaction to Committee Statement

National Front Statement

NC1909080189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] The National Front held a meeting in B'aqlin yesterday. It expressed satisfaction with the new mode of action the Arab Committee and its envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi are assuming. The Front warned of the military government's maneuvers to gain time and to reassemble and organize its forces with a view to continuing its destructive war—a matter which necessitates dealing with 'Awn and his clique in a firm manner.

In a statement it issued, the Front said: We deem it necessary that the Arab committee's envoy adhere to the contents of the resolutions issued by the Casablanca summit conference. It said that submission to the blackmail of al-Yarmah army, which is supported by Iraq and Israel, will have the grave consequences of plunging the country into a destructive war. The Front called on all its masses and forces to remain fully prepared to confront the military government's maneuver. It saluted the national resistance on its anniversary, emphasizing its determination to continue the struggle until the homeland is liberated from Israel and its agents at home.

The National Front attacked the plans and initiatives propounded by the Egyptian regime, saying that they are not conductive to the Palestinian people's attaining their legitimate national rights. The Front called on the PLO leadership to refrain from counting on such losing wagers.

Fadlallah Expresses Views

NC1809112489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] In a reaction to the revival of the Arab tripartite committee's efforts, Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has voiced the view that the Arab committee is the brainchild of the Casablanca summit, which was held under U.S. auspices. This is why the committee is seeking a rapid transformation of the Arab world that would make conciliation with Israel a fact and a cause for celebration rather than silence. In this newly transformed Arab world, the PLO would move closer to adopting U.S. views on the Palestinian issue, Fadlallah said.

The United States, Fadlallah noted, has revived the Arab committee because it could not afford to internationalize the crisis and become bogged down in a political quagmire that it would loathe. Fadlallah said that the commitee has a chance to calm down the security situation. There has not been, however, any decisive progress on constitutional reforms, for there is alway maneuvering and procrastination on that issue.

His eminence said that the so-called war of liberation was just a gimmick to create some suspense and thus prolong the crisis, adding that the U.S. Administration is always on the look-out for theatrics.

PSP Supports Tripartite Committee

NC1809160489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] met today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, PSP deputy chairman and secretary general. Discussions focused on general developments, the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee, and President Husni Mubarak's initiative.

The bureau issued a statement which said: The Political Bureau reiterates its support for the resumption of the tripartite committee's efforts to resolve the Lebanese problem. In responding to the committee's statement, it emphasizes that the desired solution must be based on reform, the final establishment of Lebanon's Arabism, and the distinctive relations between Lebanon and Syria.

Commenting on 'Awn's rejection of the committee's efforts, the bureau said this is an attempt to impede the political solution and use the military option instead, with the ultimate aim of circumventing the positive statement of the Arab committee. [passage omitted]

The Political Bureau believes it is important to emphasize the need for a Lebanese security committee which will primarily be responsible for monitoring the Lebanese coast in order to prevent the entry of weapons destined for the al-Yarzah army. [passage omitted]

The Political Bureau also discussed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative. Having studied the proposals at length, the bureau concluded that this initiative does not represent the desired guarantee of the legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinian people. The bureau believes that the initiative is clearly trying to circumvent the achievements of the intifadah [uprising], which is the only viable approach to the imposition of a just solution of the Palestinian issue and the establishment of the Palestinian people's right to build an independent state on their own soil.

Phalangist Leader Comments

NC1809195789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah has described the current stage and the meetings and contacts that are under way as fateful moments. He pointed out that the Arab committee's resolutions are unclear in parts and subject to contradictory interpretations. He added: This is why we have withheld from passing a positive or negative judgment on these resolutions until after they are clarified by Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

Sa'adah noted the changes made in the Arab proposals in the past few months, saying that at times this has resulted in certain fundamental contradictions. The changes, he said, were made according to the whims and wishes of non-Lebanese parties and without previous consultation with the Lebanese in most cases.

Speaking at the expanded meeting of the party's political bureau, advisory body, and central council, the Phalangist leader expressed surprise over reports about the contradiction in basic provisions of the committee's original plan and its disregard of the draft national reconciliation document, the question of the foreign armed presence in Lebanon, the concept of national sovereignty, and other issues, meeting with the prime minister.

'Awn Requests 'Written' Guarantee

NC1909073689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Citing sources close to Michel 'Awn, Reuter says that 'Awn has asked for written Arab guarantees that Syria will withdraw its forces from Lebanon. He has also requested clarifications on a peace plan that has been proposed by the Arab League.

Source Cites Gen 'Awn'

NC1709082489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] A source close to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has declared that before announcing its stand on the tripartite Arab committee's plan, the Lebanese Government has decided to wait for Lakhdar Ibrahimi's arrival in Beirut to get acquainted with the plan's realities, especially since Ibrahimi has been appointed chairman of the Lebanese security committee.

The source added that the Lebanese Army will honor the cease-fire if the other side follows suit, pointing out that the committee's plan contains many ambiguous points and brought nothing new. The source went on to say that what was declared in Jeddah does not represent everything agreed upon by the committee's members.

In another development, our radio has learned that before Ibrahimi's arrival, Gen 'Awn spoke with a number of political and party leaders in East Beirut and consulted with them in depth on stands. Gen 'Awn held a lengthy meeting with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' yesterday afternoon. They were contacted during the meeting by Phalangist Party Leader Dr George Sa'adah.

It should be recalled that Gen 'Awn will speak on Lebanese television at 2030 today. He will touch on Lebanese developments and the atmosphere which prevailed during the Arab committee's meetings. Gen 'Awn will also discuss the committee's statement.

Reaction to, Comment on Arab Committee Statement

Birri Welcomes Measurest

NC1709083689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Amal Movement Leader Minister Nabih Birri has welcomed the security measures adopted by the Arab committee while noting that they are bound to curb the cycle of bombardment and violence. Asked to comment on the political measures, Birri said that he will have to wait for the measures to be implemented. He emphasized that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the Arab committee should understand that the Lebanese robe cannot be patched up any more.

Junblatt Comments on Effort

NC1709185389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Jublatt has expressed the hope that the new Arab effort undertaken by the Arab committee will produce the necessary results and make it possible to begin implementing a settlement, although this cannot be done quickly.

He said: We hope that the language of guns will cease and that we will (?act) in accordance with the principles required for building a new Lebanon.

Shams al-Din Expresses Optimism

NC1709163989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has expressed optimism about the success of the Arab tripartite committee. He expressed the hope that the parties, forces, and states concerned will cooperate with the committee to ensure the success of the Arab efforts aimed at ending the crisis in Lebanon.

Shams al-Din issued a statement today saying: The Arab committee's statement, as reported by the media, reflects a balanced view of the causes of Lebanon's problems. It seems that this view is based on an objective and pragmatic understanding of the crisis. We hope that this is what has happened.

Syria Wants U.S. Guarantees

NC1609164189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The Arab tripartite committee has decided to resume its mission to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis and to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions. [passage omitted]

REUTER news agency has quoted diplomats in Damascus as saying that Arab League Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi is expected to deliver the Arab tripartite committee plan formally to Syrian officials today or tomorrow. The agency added that Syria had informed the Arab committee that it will not consider a partial withdrawal of its troops unless the United States gives strong guarantees that Israel will withdraw from the occupied border zone.

Quoting the same diplomats, REUTER pointed out that the committee plan had been discussed with some of the warring factions in Lebanon but that they had not yet reacted. The diplomats noted that the committee wants the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to issue a statement strongly supporting its new initiative.

Source Warns of Battle if Ibrahimi Fails

NC1809172089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545GMT 18Sep89

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY cites a parliamentary source in West Beirut as saying that 1 October will mark the beginning of Lebanon's reconstruction. The source expressed the hope that the Arab tripartite committee's resolutions will be implemented after Lakhdar Ibrahimi's mission is completed. He added that if Ibrahimi cannot take positive responses back to the tripartite committee, there will be a decisive battle which will end the crisis before October. He noted that this battle will be hard for everyone.

Al-Husayni Urges Implementation of Arab Statement

NC1709162789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has expressed the hope that the provisions of the Arab committee's statement will be speedily implemented. He expressed his belief that the committee is progressing normally now. Speaker al-Husayni said that what is important now is for the deputies to hold a meeting and for their arrival at the place to be agreed on to be facilitated.

Group Claims Anti-Syrian Operation

NC1609210189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The Martyr Riyadh Taha group has announced that its members carried out an operation against a Syrian occupation position near the Dahr al-Baydar police station on 14 September, killing Syrian recruit Fayiz Afyuni of the 31st Brigade.

Birri Leaves for Damascus, Meets Junblatt

NC1809062089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri left for Damascus last night and met with Minister Walid Junblatt. He is scheduled to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam today.

Meets with Khaddam

NC1809155089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Minister Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, in Damascus this afternoon. After the meeting, Minister Birri announced that the conferees had discussed the necessary measures for the formation of the Lebanese security committee and the organization of its work. He went on to say that they had examined all

possible ways of helping to end the continuing fighting in Lebanon and assisting the Arab tripartite committee to find a political solution.

Birri said he doubted that General 'Awn would let this peaceful march go on. He added: We insist on changing the Lebanese system fully and fundamentally. He emphasized that the battle is among Lebanese, and that it has nothing to do with Syria, who came to Lebanon only after the 1975 fighting, in response to an official request by the Lebanese Government, and not before.

On his meeting with Lakhdar Ibrahimi yesterday, Minister Birri said that he had expressed his willingness to help the Arab committee, particularly in connection with security procedures and the issue of displaced persons.

Resistance Attacks Patrol, Lahd Position

NC1809164489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpts] In the South, resistance fighters detonated an explosive device under an enemy patrol on the Dardarah road in the Marj 'Uyun area at dawn today, damaging a vehicle and injuring two of its occupants. The occupation forces searched the area after the operation. [passage omitted]

National resistance fighters also used mortars to shell a position held by the agent Lahd militia in the Sfaray area of Jazzin early today. They scored a direct hit.

Syrian Intelligence Confiscates Weekly

NC1509125789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Syrian intelligence, backed by the Syrian army, surrounded the printing presses of the AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI W/A AL-DUWALI in al-Hamra street in Beirut today and confiscated the latest issue and the truck carrying it.

Clashes Continue; Israeli Planes Fly Over Sidon

NC1809200389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Intermittent clashes are taking place on the Kafr Shima, al-Shuwayfat, al-Hadath, and al-Laylakah combat lines. The fighting is accompanied by occasional rocket fire. A similar situation prevails along the Suq al-Gharb and 'Aytat lines in the mountain following fierce fighting which occurred shortly after 2000 in which tank guns and flat-trajectory fire were used.

Meanwhile Israeli fighter aircraft overflew Sidon and the nearby camps tonight.

'Unidentified' Planes Fly Over Beirut

NC1809182089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Unidentified warplanes flew over Beirut shortly after 1600 today.

Israeli aircraft flew over the mountain area soon after 1400.

West Beirut Army Command on Firing at Target

NC1809121989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of the West Beirut Army Command on 18 September]

[Text] Despite all attempts to end the crisis and avoid further escalation of the security situation, the al-Yarzah army command still persists in bringing arms to drown the country in further destruction.

The statement adds: A maritime target tried to approach the Juniyah coast at midnight last night. Our artillery opened fire in its direction, in implementation of the decision to prevent arms and ammunition from entering the eastern area.

New Group Claims Attack on Syrians

NC1809100889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] An organization calling itself the 'Alam-al-Din group has announced that a group of its gunmen attacked a position of the Syrian occupation forces on Jabal Turbul Road [near Tripoli] at 0630 today. The organization said that two Syrian soldiers and one of the attackers were killed in the operation. It identified one of the Syrians killed in the attack as Sergeant 'Ali Mahhu.

West Beirut Army Fires at Maritime Target

NC1909090189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Statement issued by the West Beirut Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 19 September]

[Text] Our artillery engaged a maritime target off the Tabarja coast at 0330 today, in implementation of the decision to prevent arms and ammunition from reaching the eastern area.

Israeli Forces Arrest 7 Citizens in South

NC1909095789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Israeli occupation forces arrested seven citizens from the villages of Kafr Shuba, Kafr Hamam, and

al-Habbariyah yesterday, charging them with cooperating with the Lebanese National Resistance fighters. The forces took them to al-Khiyam prison for interrogation.

The mukhtars and mayors in the villages of Marj 'Uyun and Bint Jubayl have called for the release of all the detainees from al-Khiyam prison and reaffirmed their support for the United Nations forces operating in the south.

Soviet Envoy Meets Al-Husayni, Makes Statement

NC1809180689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni this afternoon. After the meeting, he stressed the need to support the Arab committee in its efforts to implement the Arab higher committee's proposals. He said: The Soviet Union encourages the Arab efforts, hoping they will lead to a settlement of the security issues and open the way for a political solution to the Lebanese crisis. This crisis has lasted a long time and it constitutes a danger to the future of Lebanon as a state and to the situation in the region.

Asked if international conditions are right for the implementation of the Arab resolutions, Kolotusha said: There is a real opportunity to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions and to bring to a successful conclusion Arab efforts to find a political solution. We support the Arab efforts energetically and strongly . This is an opportunity which must not be missed.

Explosion Wrecks Part of American Express Bank

NC1909055889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Our security correspondent reports that an explosive device exploded in front of the offices of the American Express Bank in Sinn al-Fil [in East Beirut] at 2315 yesterday.

The explosion destroyed the main entrance to the bank, which is situated on the fourth floor of Nina al-Shaluhi Commercial Center. Nearby offices were also gravely damaged.

Hizballah Denies Arms Stored in Collapsed Building

NC1809140489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpts] At least 10 people were killed and 9 others wounded when a building collapsed in the southern suburb after being shelled by the al-Yarzah army at dawn today. [passage omitted]

A Hizballah spokesman has denied reports that the party had any centers or ammunition depots in the building. The spokesman said that the building's collapse was caused by shelling.

Group Claims Anti-Syrian Operation

NC1609210189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The Martyr Riyadh Taha group has announced that its members carried out an operation against a Syrian occupation position near the Dahr al-Baydar police station on 14 September, killing Syrian recruit Fayiz Afyuni of the 31st Brigade.

Press Cited on 'Awn's Rejection of Arab Solution

JN1909085889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Enemies of the Arab Solution," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The al-Yarzah general has voiced his rejection of the Arab tripartite committee's decision. He expressed his intentions to escalate the security situation in Lebanon, and his rejection of any efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis or to contribute toward settling it. 'Awn's rejection of the Arab committee's decision means that he rejects the Arab solution in form and essence. He consequently rejects resolving the Lebanese crisis and the means that would lead to saving Lebanon from its ordeal and enable it to overcome its tragedy.

After reviewing the 'Awn clique's role, which constitutes an obstacle to the Arab solution, the paper says: In light of the aforementioned facts, a logical conclusion should be drawn. This conclusion is that 'Awn's role is confined to serving Israel and to continuing political sectarianism. This is why he rejected the Arab tripartite committee's decision. He will also continue to adopt a hostile stand toward any efforts to spread the formula of justice, peace, and accord in Lebanon. This necessitates action by all means to foil the plans, roles, and maneuvers that reject national accord and political reforms, and to establish constitutional institutions. This is because the natural way to settle the Lebanese crisis must be based on these pillars that guarantee the achievement of equality among all sects of the Lebanese people, through which Lebanon will be able to protect its unity, security, and land.

On the same subject, AL-BA'TH says: The current Arab efforts to find the right solution to the fraternal country's crisis undoubtedly provide a rare opportunity, as Dr Salim al-Huss has said. From this premise, efforts should continue in this direction until the Arab solution is achieved—a solution that has received large-scale Arab and international welcome. However, 'Awn's clique and those supporting it, such as the bloody regime of Baghdad, Israel, and others, should be considered not only as standing against Lebanon's unity and Arabism, but also against progress and liberation in the region and the world. This is the only way the aspired Arab situation will triumph.

Radio Urges East Beirut To Back Arab Committee

JN1809131389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arab tripartite committee's statement and the tangible measures it contains to achieve a cease-fire, monitor arms shipments, end blockades, reopen Beirut international airport to traffic, and invite members of the Chamber of Deputies to discuss a national accord document, constitutes a decisive turning point in the Lebanese crisis. For the first time since 'Awn declared his devastating war against the Lebanese, signs are appearing on the horizon for hope, relaxation, and the possibility of Lebanon's emergence from the long, dark tunnel and the woes of a war which has caused enormous destruction and ruin.

Syria has fully welcomed the Arab statement, declared its readiness to offer all possible help, and called on all sides to cooperate sincerely with the committee. The Arabs, the international community, and the Lebanese, especially the nationalist forces, have welcomed the committee's move. No doubt, the Arab committee enjoys a vast reserve of Arab and international support to fulfill its task and to achieve a solution to the Lebanese crisis. This crisis has seriously deteriorated since the middle of last March when the isolationists, represented by 'Awn and his clique, declared their devastating war against Lebanon and the Lebanese. This war has caused grave losses in lives and property, especially in West Beirut and the cities and villages of Jabal Lubnan and al-Biqa' Valley, and it has diverted attention from the Israeli occupation of a part of southern Lebanon, enabling the Zionist invasion army to commit its crimes while world opinion was preoccupied with the Lebanese war.

Syria's welcoming of the committee's statement and the measures it contains to achieve a cease-fire and begin the process of a political solution stems from Syria's conviction that the crisis is an internal one, a crisis impossible to solve by military force. Syria is convinced that a solution is only possible via a dialogue between the parties concerned and the implementation of desired reforms essential for national accord. Syria also believes that Arab efforts should be devoted to defusing the crisis and creating the appropriate atmosphere for reason, logic, and the spirit of the age. This should achieve equality and justice for the Lebanese while doing away with the system of privileges, sectarian discrimination, and coercion.

When the tripartite committee's statement called for the formation of a Lebanese security committee and the discussion of a national accord program, it pointed its finger at the very root of the problem; namely, that the crisis is an internal one and that its resolution is only achievable through dialogue and mutual understanding.

The Lebanese in general have welcomed the tripartite committee's statement, considering it to be a way out of the terrible nightmare they have experienced over the past few months. The nationalist forces' welcoming of the statement indicates their concern for Lebanese life and property and their faith in a unified Arab Lebanon. News reports say that Lebanese figures and parliamentarians in East Beirut also have welcomed the statement. However, 'Awn and his clique have remained silent. The committee's statement and proposals have come as an unexpected development for them. This is because the

isolationists do not want a solution and a unified Lebanon, but a divided, wounded Lebanon—a Lebanon blown apart by the woes and disasters of war, a Lebanon which turns its back to the Arabs and the Arab nation and is closely linked to Israel.

With such an attitude, observers do not rule out 'Awn's rejection of the Arab measures or his procrastination in implementing them while he undermines the security situation in an attempt to contain and foil the Arab effort. So, it behooves the East Beirut personalities, who always have affirmed their commitment to a peaceful coexistence between Lebanese and their commitment to Lebanon's unity and Arab affiliation, to raise their voices high and to make the right decision which would put an end to those who tamper with Lebanon's security and the future of the eastern region in particular. It behooves them to take the right initiative to help fulfill the Arab efforts and end the crisis which has continued too long and caused great losses to all Lebanese without exception, especially since the Lebanese in the nationalist and Muslim areas are helping to build a new society in which there will be no room for fear, coercion, and discrimination.

Broadcast Alleges Israeli Drug Trafficking

JN1709170189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Sep 89

["Talk of the Return" feature from Palestine Broadcast]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation:

In an interview, Soviet expert (Dmitriy Brokakiv), says: The Zionist entity is trying to remain silent on the Colombian drugs scandal because it is connected with the activities of Israeli trainers and arms dealers abroad. Brokakiv says: There are over 800 Israeli firms in 45 countries selling arms, preparing units with special tasks, and training individuals to guard high-level figures. The Zionist government benefits from this situation, since the revenues from arms exports for this year are expected to exceed $1.5 billion. This will enable it to allocate extra resources to continue its occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

The NOVOSTI news agency points out that drug dealers in Latin America brag about their striking force and their ability to confuse the governments of states that try to confront them. It also points out that there is a fear that drug mafia men will be able to include the United States in their terroristic acts.

The thing to which we must pay attention in this regard is that the international drug mafia's activities are not limited to South and North America. They conduct their activities in all parts of the world, including many Arab states.

The available information confirms that there are strong ties between the drug mafia and the Zionist Mosad. They also confirm that the Zionist entity is used as a main post to help the drug mafia. Consequently, transport services—such as the Zionist El-Al company's planes and the Zionist naval fleets—are among the main means of transportation used to ensure the drug trade in the world. There is a special Zionist emphasis on developing the drug mafia's activity in the Arab region as part of the Zionists' strategy to bring about a strategic fragmentation of the Arab world.

Therefore, revealing the information related to this type of activity at the time when the scandal of the Zionist role in Colombia and Latin America erupted may help in exposing the real face of Zionism as a movement hostile to humanity as a whole, and not just to the people of Palestine and the Arab nation.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Accuses U.S. of 'Weakening' Resistance

BK1909014189 Hong Kong AFP in English
2121 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 18 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Afghan mujahidin leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has accused the United States, the main supporter of the Muslim guerrillas, of betraying the resistance and weakening his faction.

The unprecedented attack came in a radio message from inside Afghanistan that was released Monday [18 September] by Mr. Hekmatyar's secretariat here.

The rebel leader said that Washington has decided to "sell out those whom it has been calling its friends. It has left them in the lurch and now they are totally stranded."

Mr. Hekmatyar, who is also the foreign minister of the mujahidin's Afghan interim government based in Pakistan, charged that the United States was "interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and wanted to install there a government of its own choice."

He said that Washington has started "all-out efforts, fair and unfair, to enthrone the elements of its own liking in our war-torn motherland."

He did not say who these elements were, but said the "U.S. also wants to weaken the Islamic parties in Afghanistan" and his Hezb-e Eslam-e "in particular."

Mr. Hekmatyar explained that Washington wanted to suppress the Islamic "resurgence in Afghanistan as well as in other countries" to restrain the "wave of Islamic reawakening throughout the world."

He criticised the United States for disrupting arms supply to the mujahidin following the February 15 withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Regarding "stoppage of arms supply to mujahidin, the responsibility was put on an individual instead of a governmental organ," he said in an apparent reference to the recent removal of the head of the Afghan task force of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) following western reports that rebels were suffering an acute arms shortage.

"They mistakenly presume that we, Afghans, are so simple that we can't differentiate between an individual and a governmental act or omission," Mr. Hekmatyar said.

"From the very beginning, the U.S. has been exerting pressure on the Pakistan Government to divide mujahidin in small and ineffective groups so that their unanimous leadership did not rise and come into the limelight," he said.

According to Western sources, Mr. Hekmatyar, said to be in the past a protege of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), the powerful Pakistani secret services, used to get the "lion's share" from U.S. arms supplies funnelled through Pakistan.

In a recent report, THE WASHINGTON POST said that one of the objectives of the U.S. "change of strategy" in Afghanistan was to reduce the influence of most extreme Islamic fundamentalist leaders within the resistance, particularly Mr. Hekmatyar.

The defence chief of the resistance, General Yahya Nauroze, said Monday at a press conference in northwestern Peshawar that the mujahidin had started getting fresh supplies of weapons from the United States.

He said that the arms were now being distributed by the Defence Ministry of the interim government to field commanders on the basis of their position and the importance of their areas.

Nauroze Says U.S. Sending Fresh Arms Supplies

BK1809124089 Hong Kong AFP in English
1223 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 18 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin have started getting fresh supplies of weapons from the United States after a lull lasting several months, the defence chief of the resistance said here Monday.

General Yahya Nauroze, deputy minister for defence and chief of the army staff in the six-month old mujahidin's Afghan Interim Government (AIG), told a news conference that the arms have started coming to the resistance's defence ministry.

He said the weapons were being distributed by his ministry to the field commanders directly without considering their party allegiances.

"Commanders are getting weapons according to their positions and importance of their areas," he said. Until now the weapons were channelled through the seven Pakistan-based parties in the resistance coalition.

Mr. Nauroze, a former Afghan Army general, said the field commanders were not getting weapons on the basis of party affiliations now.

His statement follows recent reports from Western diplomats that the United States wanted to give importance to the AIG as well as field commanders in a departure from the past practice of supplying to the component parties.

"The Americans are no more channelling resources to the parties," one diplomat said.

Mujahidin Official Claims Several Successes

BK1909063289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] General (Mohammad Isa Nowroz), deputy defense minister of the interim government of Afghanistan, has expressed satisfaction at the mujahidin's performance in the Afghan war, saying that they have achieved success at various fronts. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar, he said the mujahidin have fought firmly against the Kabul regime forces at various places, particularly Kabul, Qandahar, Khowst, Ghazni, Mazar-e Sharif, Shindand, Gowda, Charikar, and Salang Highway.

IRNA: Militia Chief Surrenders to Mujahidin

LD1809125589 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 18, IRNA—General commander of Kabul regime militia units in Zaranj, the provincial capital of Nimruz, Dost Mohammad, and his deputy, Azizullah, surrendered to the mujahideen last Thursday, mujahideen sources in Nimruz Province said on Sunday.

A message received from mujahideen commander in the area, Abdul Karim, said that the communist regime militia commander who surrendered with 50 of his militias, was responsible for the security of Zaranj and was in charge of all the posts around the city.

According to reports the militia have brought with themselves three trucks and tractors, two heavy field guns, three ZK guns, four (?grenades), one 82mm mortar, and seven pieces of RPG-7 rocket launchers.

Except for Zaranj, the rest of the province is controlled by the mujahideen. Nemroze is located south west of Kabul and has common borders with Iran.

Rebel Commanders Discuss Qandahar Siege

LD1609191989 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] London, Sept. 16, IRNA—The mujahidin field commanders, who have placed Qandahar city under a siege, held a meeting on Sept. 12 in Malajat area, south of Qandahar city, to discuss a joint strategy to deal with the situation arising out of the advance of the Soviet-Kabul military and supply convoy towards the city.

According to an AAP [Agence Afghan Presse] report monitored here Friday the commanders meeting also condemned the American conspiracies against the Afghan interim government.

Expressing their views at the meeting, the field commanders noted with deep concern the attempts of the Western powers to create rifts between mujahidin's two organizations and they said the Takhar incident was part of a series of such malicious designs.

The meeting viewed that the attempts were designed to put an end to the role of two important organizations included in the Afghan interim government and pave the way for a coalition government of the Westernised and Soviet-backed segments of Afghan society.

It was also declared at the meeting that such a coalition government would not be acceptable to the Afghan masses, AAP said, adding that the field commanders vowed to frustrate all designs of the enemies with the grace of God and would succeed in establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Receives Pakistani Youth Delegation

LD1809185989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, today received a delegation of the Independent Youth Movement of Baluchistan Province, Pakistan, at the Gul Khana Presidential Palace.

During this meeting talks were held on the role of youths in promoting peace. The delegation asked a number of questions from esteemed Najibullah about the development of the political-military situation in Afghanistan, to which replies were given.

Bangladesh

Policemen Injured by Bomb During Student Strike

BK1709081689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT 17 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 17 (AFP)—Two policemen were injured in a bomb blast here Sunday [17 September] at the start of a half-day strike called by an opposition student group to protest campus violence that has claimed six lives in one month, witnesses said.

They said unidentified people lobbed a crude bomb at a police outpost near the Dhaka University campus, injuring the two policemen.

They were being treated at the police hospital, a police official said.

Schools and shops were closed, the streets were virtually empty apart from trishaws, and paramilitary and armed police were on patrol, witnesses said.

They said activity in government and other offices was subdued Sunday, a regular working day in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh.

The strike by the Sangrami Chatro Jote, led by the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Khaleda Zia, also called for resignation of the "autocratic" regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

punishment of those involved in the recent killings of JCD workers and release of jailed JCD leaders and supporters.

The dawn-to-noon work stoppage was the first this year by students in four major cities of Bangladesh, following continued clashes among rival student groups. No specific reason for the incidents has been established.

Mr. Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup, said Saturday at a public meeting outside Dhaka: "Politics and violence must be removed from the campus to save the country" and called on teachers, parents and students to make educational institutions free from politics.

He added: "We do not send our dear children to schools to return as dead bodies."

Mr. Ershad dissolved his ruling Jatiya Party's student wing in 1986 saying it would help restore peace on the campus, and urged other political groups to follow suit.

The strike was also being observed peacefully in the cities of Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna, according to reports reaching here.

End to Violence Urged

BK1909061789 Hong Kong AFP in English 0502 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 19 (AFP)—The Dhaka University authorities have appealed to all political leaders to restrain their student activists who have been fighting each other for several weeks on the campus, newspapers here reported Tuesday [19 September].

The appeal issued late Monday was mainly aimed at opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the reports said, adding that rival activists of her party's student wing, the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD), were blamed for "terror and tension" on the campus.

"We appeal to Begum Zia to remove the terrorists from the campus to end the present nightmarish situation," the university authorities said, warning that she and other party leaders would be held responsible for any casualties because of the "terrorist activities."

Press reports earlier said 11 student militants had died in the past six weeks in campus violence.

The university, hot-bed of Bangladesh student politics, witnessed a five-hour gunbattle between two factions of the JCD camped in opposite dormitories early Monday.

More than 500 shots were fired in the incident, and two students were wounded, the reports said, adding that a government motorcycle crossing the area at the time was also set ablaze by the activists.

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER reported Tuesday that Begum Zia had taken steps to stop the violence.

The JCD split over a leadership dispute, which reports here say would be settled shortly by Begum Zia, widow of Bangladesh's former President Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated in 1981.

Current President Hussain Mohammad Ershad last Saturday called on teachers, guardians and students to make educational institutions free from politics.

"We do not send our dear children to schools to return as dead bodies."

Meanwhile, the university students called for an anti-terrorism strike on the campus Tuesday.

There are 24,000 students in Dhaka University, 9,000 of them residing in 13 dormitories.

Mr. Ershad dissolved his ruling Jatiya Party's [JP] student wing in 1986, saying the move would help restore peace on the campus, and urged other political leaders to follow suit.

On Monday, Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam was quoted by the official BSS news agency as saying that the question of reviving the JP's student wing "does not arise at all."

The government was determined to keep the university "a place for nourishment of free thoughts and ideas," he said, adding that "we have urged all political parties to cooperate with the government in strengthening its campaign for keeping the campus free from violence."

3 Dead, Over 150 Injured

BK1909074789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Reports say that in Bangladesh, at least 3 persons were killed and over 150 injured, 12 critically, in clashes between two groups of people near Gopalganj town, about 200 km south of the capital Dhaka yesterday. However, no official confirmation of death or injured was available. The incident occurred following demonstration by a section of people demanding punishment of a district official for writing an article hurting the sentiments of a particular minority group. Reports say a heavy contingent of police was deployed in the affected areas to stop recurrence of such an incident. The situation is reported to be under control.

Meanwhile, violence continued unabated within the Dhaka University camps yesterday when gunshots and bomb blasts disturbed the peace in the area. According to eyewitness reports, the two groups of the same student organization clashed for control of residential halls. It may be mentioned that violence in educational institutions in Bangladesh have claimed 12 lives and caused injuries to over 400 in the last 2 months.

Paper Welcomes Bush's Campaign Against Drugs

BK1809144589 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Sep 89 p 5

[Editorial: "The Bush Initiative"]

[Text] President George Bush has declared his country's war against drug traffickers in a dramatic manner, committing a massive fund of $7.86 billion for the programme, providing increased powers to law-enforcement agencies and even offering substantial financial assistance to other countries, especially in Latin America, fighting this menace. To deal with what he called, "America's toughest domestic test in decades" during his stern address on Tuesday, the US leader has given a new boost to the continuing international crusade against narcotics.

This new initiative will be warmly welcomed by the world community, most of all by Latin American countries, especially Colombia which is fighting a desperate battle against cocaine barons. The news from Bogota is simply frightening. In the country's long war against drug dealers, nothing like what is happening now—the merciless killing of security officers and their relatives—has ever happened before. Should Colombia lose this war against cocaine barons, drug lords in other Latin American countries will flex their muscles too. To put it plainly, Colombia cannot afford to lose this war. But whether she wins or losses this battle depends on what assistance the United States can provide to this Latin American country.

Here, Colombia faces difficult options. While she has accepted some logistic support, such as helicopters, from Washington, she maintains her opposition to the use of US troops in tackling what she rightly regards as a domestic crisis. The statement by Mr Bush on Wednesday has so far made no difference to this opposition. The problem facing Bogota is, while an increase in the logistic support from US would help, the government cannot overnight raise the strength of its anti-narcotic security forces. With the financial assistance offered by the United States, Bogota can, of course, buy arms for use against drug barons. But the battle will still be hard and long.

In fighting this relentless battle against cocaine dealers, Colombia has made one perfectly valid point, more than once. True, it is the responsibility of the Government of Colombia to win its internal war, with all the help that Washington can provide. But the real battle against drug dealers must be fought within the United States, on the streets of New York, Washington, Chicago and all other cities. This is the market for the cocaine barons of Colombia or for the drugs produced in the infamous Golden Triangle in Asia. And it is also within the United States where all the channels of distribution, some controlled by US citizens, thrive under the eyes of the US law enforcement agencies. The international community may ask if enough has been done to deal with this problem at the US end.

This statement by Mr Bush suggests that his administration has recognised this basic problem and wants to do something about it. A major portion of the funding support for the anti-drug war will be used in strengthening the law-enforcement agencies within the United States. But questions have been raised by members of the US Congress as to whether the President has gone far enough in that direction. In fact, there is some disappointment that the President's plan has not been "bold enough" either. While one must admit that the US Congressmen are used to making such criticisms against the administration on a problem on which they themselves rarely offer any new initiative, one hopes that the US administration will keep its newly-unveiled anti-drug plan under constant scrutiny and ensure that the battle that Colombia is being urged to win at all costs is not lost within the United States.

First Lady Departs for Bangkok, Beijing

BK1809124789 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The first lady, Begum Raushan Ershad left Dhaka Monday [18 September] morning for Bangkok on her way to China on a 5-day official visit.

During her visit, the first lady will have a meeting with Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Premier Li Peng. She will attend the opening ceremony of the Sino-Bangladeshi friendship school in Beijing on Wednesday [20 September]. Begum Ershad will also visit several women welfare projects and industrial plants.

Pakistan's Reentry Into Commonwealth Welcomed

BK1609155089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Bangladesh has welcomed Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today that Bangladesh has consistently urged the member states to agree on the proposal of Pakistan rejoining the Commonwealth. He said the Government of Pakistan has conveyed to Bangladesh its thanks and appreciation for its stand on the issue.

Commentary Notes Outcome of Velayati Visit

BK1509133389 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh and Iran have decided to begin a new chapter in their bilateral relations. This is clear from the agreement to set up a joint ministerial-level commission to [word indistinct] for bolstering economic, political, and cultural ties. The commission will provide the backup support to efforts of boosting trade. These are the results of the talks on Thursday in Dhaka between Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and his Bangladeshi counterpart, Anisul Islam Mahmud. The

meeting gave an opportunity for a joint review of the international and regional political scenario.

Both Tehran and Dhaka are committed to the realization of an independent state for the Palestinians with the vacating of aggression by Israel from all occupied Arab territories. It can be expressed here that both the countries will now join hands to strengthen an international effort for a Palestine state at the 44th United Nations General Assembly beginning in New York later this month.

Iran emerged recently from a devastating border war with Iraq, which crippled the economies of both the Muslim countries. That war had led to sharp divisions within the Middle East. Bangladesh, which from the outset advocated a negotiated settlement of the border conflict, had maintained a neutral posture vis-a-vis the war. As a member of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] peace committee, Bangladesh took an active interest in halting the fighting. These peace efforts have been at least effective in preventing escalation of the war during rather crucial moments of the conflict. Dhaka's contribution toward silencing the guns of the Gulf War has been appreciated in the Islamic capitals and in other international forums. Even Tehran, which suffered from a degree of misgivings initially, is now convinced of the genuine concern of Bangladesh on ending the war. It is natural that the question of a durable peace between Iran and Iraq has been one of the major issues discussed during the Dhaka talks. Bangladesh has been able to renew its commitment to a negotiated settlement as a means of preventing any further outburst of armed conflict.

Since the arrival of the new government in Iran headed by President Rafsanjani, Tehran has been moderating its stand on international issues, domestic policies, and in the conduct of its foreign relations. These have contributed to a better climate for enhancing bilateral cooperation. Bangladesh, for instance, is willing to take a more active role in the reconstruction efforts of the war-ravaged Iranian economy by sending more skilled manpower and other technical expertise. The Bangladeshi work force in Iran has been making valuable contributions to the regeneration of the Iranian economy, which has been appreciated by the authorities in Tehran.

The question of trade was at the focus of attention during the talks. Bangladesh has proposed an increase in the volume of trade by diversifying the commodities to be exchanged. It is reassuring that Iran has shown its interest in building up commerce by importing raw jute, [word indistinct], tea, and fertilizer from Bangladesh and selling cement and petroleum products at concessional rates. The two countries will try more sincerely for joint ventures which could be both in Dhaka and Tehran. The scope for building up political and economic ties between Bangladesh and Iran is provided by the traditional links between the two nations. These have weathered the ravages of time and have endured the crisis of contemporary events. These relations are deeply embedded in the spirits of the two nations. It is up to the modern day leaders of the two countries to use this proximity in feelings to build ties with a modern dimension mutually beneficial to both the people.

'Huge' Coal Deposit Found in Rangpur District

BK1609160089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] A huge reserve of quality coal has been found in village Madankhali of Pirganj Upazila [subdistrict] in Rangpur District. According to a Geological Survey Department official, the coal was found in 950 feet below the ground level covering an area of about 50 square miles with an estimated quantum of some thousand million tons which might meet the total national requirement for 100 years.

India

Joint Communique With Sri Lanka Issued

BK1909101689 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0845 GMT 19 Sep 89

["Joint communique issued simultaneously by Government of India and Government of Sri Lanka on 18th of September 89"]

[Text] 1. In pursuance of the communique signed in Colombo on the 28th July, 1989, by Shri [Mister] L.L. Mehrotra, the high commissioner of India, and Mr Bernard Tilakratne, secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, three rounds of consultation were held by the two governments. A Sri Lankan delegation, led by the foreign minister, Hon [Honorable] Ranjan Wijeratne, visited India from the 29th July to 4th August, 1989. Mr Bradman Weerakoon, special envoy of his excellency the president of Sri Lanka, held further discussions in New Delhi from the 15th to the 17th August, 1989. A final round of talks was held between His Excellency Shri Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India, and Hon Ranjan Wijeratne, foreign minister of Sri Lanka, during their visit to Belgrade from the 4th to 7th September, 1989.

2. The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. They covered bilateral issues, including the deinduction of the remaining IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] contingents in Sri Lanka, the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement and measures to ensure the safety and security of all communities of the North-eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

3. The implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement was reviewed in depth by the two sides. The Sri Lankan side briefed the Indian side on the progress made and the further steps taken by them for the expeditious implementation of the devolution process, such as establishing of the provincial police force and facilitating the effective functioning of the North-eastern provincial council and the establishment of an adequate administrative

structure for that purpose. The Sri Lankan side also informed the Indian side that it would institute all measures to strengthen the civil administration as early as possible which would ensure peace and normalcy in the North-eastern Province.

4. The Sri Lankan side informed the Indian side of their decision to set up a peace committee on the 20th of September, 1989, to afford an opportunity to all political and ethnic groups in the North-eastern Province to come together to settle their differences through a process of consultation, compromise and consensus and to bring all groups into the democratic process, thereby ending violence and improving conditions for the physical safety and security of all communities. This would help restore normalcy and contribute to the effective functioning of the North-eastern provincial council. The first meeting of the peace committee will be held within three weeks of the setting of this committee. This decision was welcomed by the Indian side.

5. It was decided to set up a security coordination group comprising the Sri Lankan minister of state for defence, the chief minister of the North-eastern Province, the Sri Lankan defence secretary and the GOC [General Officer Commanding] of the IPKF, with a view to avoiding any adverse impact on the law and order situation in the North-eastern Province and to suggest measures to ensure the safety and security in the North-eastern Province as the phased deinduction of the IPKF and the strengthening of the civilian administration of the North-eastern Province of Sri Lanka proceeds. This group will keep in view the recommendations of the peace committee relating to the safety and security of the inhabitants of the North-eastern Province.

6. In view of the above, the process of deinduction of the IPKF, which recommenced on the 29th July, 1989, will be continued on an expeditious schedule. All efforts will be made to accelerate the deinduction of the IPKF to complete deinduction by the 31st December, 1989.

7. The Indian side stated that the suspension of offensive military operations by the IPKF will come into effect at 0600 hours on the 20th of September, 1989. An observer group consisting of the Sri Lanka Army commander and the GOC of the IPKF will report any violations of the cessation of hostilities and immediate consequential action taken and recommend further remedial action to his excellency the president of Sri Lanka.

Indian Press Welcomes Accord on Troop Pullout

BK1909083389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Test] New Delhi, Sept 19 (AFP)—Indian newspapers Tuesday hailed an agreement signed by New Delhi and Colombo for pulling out Indian troops from Sri Lanka by December 31, but warned that the process may not be smooth and easy-going.

Some English-language newspapers also praised the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF), which was deployed in the strife-torn island under a 1987 bilateral accord, for carrying out its task under unenviable circumstances.

India and Sri Lanka issued a joint statement Monday announcing the long-awaited pullout date and a unilateral ceasefire by the Indians against the diehard Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group.

The truce is to come into effect at six a.m. (0030 GMT) Wednesday.

"It (the agreement) provides a unique opportunity to establish peace on the island," said THE HINDU daily, but added that the scenario likely to emerge after the Indian troop withdrawal from the Tamil-majority north-east of Sri Lanka was not very clear.

The TIMES OF INDIA in an editorial called it a vindication of New Delhi's constant stand that an IPKF pullout would need to be accompanied by devolution of powers to the island's Tamil minority.

Monday's joint statement provides for creation of a provincial police force in Sri Lanka's north-east, "effective functioning" of the regional government there and observance of the ceasefire.

The pro-government NATIONAL HERALD here dubbed the agreement a "happy ending" and "hoped that wisdom will prevail all round and Sri Lanka will settle down to normalcy and peace."

The presence of Indian troops, who have been carrying on a bloody bush war against the LTTE since October 1987, has been an acrimonious issue in Sri Lanka, where radical Sinhalese militants seeking the government's ouster have made it the main bone of contention, calling the IPKF deployment an affront to national sovereignty.

The IPKF has lost more than 1,000 men and killed hundreds of suspected LTTE cadres in the fighting which erupted after the latter repudiated the 1987 accord and refused to surrender their arms.

The anti-government INDIAN EXPRESS also called Monday's agreement between India and Sri Lanka "a welcome accord", while THE TRIBUNE newspaper said it was an "accord at last."

THE TRIBUNE, however, said that "there are signs of unsolved discord rather than happy accord" in the agreement, adding that there were many loopholes with which Indian troops could continue their campaign against the LTTE.

The Madras-based THE HINDU, which is known for its Sri Lanka coverage, said persisting suspicions and bitterness among the warring Tamil groups "and the difficulties ahead should not be underrated."

The LTTE bitterly opposes pro-India Tamil groups like the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which controls the local administration in the north-east. The LTTE has demanded that the regional government resign.

Newspapers quoted an EPRLF member of the Sri Lankan Parliament, K. Premachandran, as saying that his group doubted if the LTTE would take part in a peace committee which is to be set up under the agreement to bring about reconciliation among the Tamil groups.

Mr. Premachandran added that the Citizens Volunteer Force (CVF), which critics say is an EPRLF front, would maintain law and order in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka when the Indian troops return home.

The LTTE has declined comment so far on the joint statement.

The TIMES OF INDIA asked the two governments to be careful while dealing with the EPRLF and LTTE, which like the other Tamil groups once fought for a separate Tamil homeland called Eelam using India as a sanctuary.

When the Indians landed in Sri Lanka, they were widely welcomed in the north-east as saviours of the Tamils until the IPKF launched military operations against the LTTE.

THE HINDU credited the IPKF with performing "a highly commendable role... under trying and difficult circumstances" in its bid to establish a semblance of normalcy in the Tamil populated areas.

17 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab, Haryana

BK1909041889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Seventeen terrorists have been arrested in Punjab and Haryana, as the youth wing leader of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr Sohan Singh Desi, has been killed in terrorist violence in Jullundur District. Mr Sohan Singh was shot dead this morning by two terrorists at his home village Khangnadesian. The sad end comes a day after his election as secretary of the Punjab and Chandigarh unit of the Democratic Youth Federation of India. The terrorists escaped after committing the crime.

Out of the 17 terrorists arrested in Punjab and Haryana, 7 of them were arrested by the Haryana police after an ambush near Urlana village in Kurukshetra District. These arrests were made last night. These seven terrorists are said to have sneaked into Haryana after training in a neighboring country. All of the seven have been identified. They were involved in more than 25 killings, looting, and arson in Punjab and Haryana. The seven are said to be members of a gang led by Sukhwinder Singh Sangha. He is said to be the right-hand man of the most wanted terrorist, Gurbachan Singh Manochchahal. The Haryana police said the seven men were planning large-scale killings in Kurukshcta District.

Security forces in Punjab arrested 10 other terrorists in Amritsar city last night. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them. Elsewhere in the state, nine people have been killed in terrorist violence. Three terrorists died in an intergang rivalry.

Meanwhile, the state police chief, Mr K.P.S. Gill, has rushed to Faridkot to seek the release of the 4-year-old son of Tarn Taran SP [superintendent of police]. The child was kidnapped on Saturday.

Namboodiripad Gives Details of CPI-M Meeting

BK1609160289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has called upon all secular parties to demarcate themselves from the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] outlook and assure the minorities that they will observe democratic norms while fighting for the basic rights. Briefing newsmen after a 2-day meeting of the party, its general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, said that the party Politburo is disturbed about reports indicating that the Janata Dal in Maharashtra is coming to an electoral understanding with the BJP and Shiv Sena [a militant Hindu organization].

Referring to international issues, a party communique endorsed India's consistent support to the cause of democratic Cambodia. It also expressed satisfaction at the continuing negotiations between India and Sri Lanka and noted that the talks between King Birendra of Nepal and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, opened prospects for friendly negotiations to settling issues relating to the trade and transit treaty.

'Subversives' Reportedly Injure 60 in Kashmir

BK1809164589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Agency reports from Jammu and Kashmir say over 60 people, including 10 policemen, were injured when subversives attacked six localities in Srinagar city with hand grenades and firearms. The state police, however, put the number of injured at 16. A police inspector and a constable, who were injured in the Nawakadal Chowk, are stated to be in serious condition.

In other incidents, the car of the DIG [deputy inspector general] of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] was heavily stoned at Basantbag area. The DIG, Mr N.K. Tiwari, fired in the air in self-defense. The CRPF convoy was also stoned near Nawakadal.

The chief minister, Mr Farooq Abdullah, reviewed the situation in Srinagar at a meeting with the senior officers.

Meanwhile, shops remained closed in most parts of Srinagar today. However, traffic plied normally, and all government offices and business establishments worked as usual.

Maldives President Arrives for 2 Days of Talks

BK1809091589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The president of the Maldives, Mr Abdul Gayoom, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a 2-day official visit. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, received him at the airport. During his stay, Mr Gayoom will have talks with the prime minister and the ministers of defense, external affairs and planning.

Discusses Economic Cooperation

BK1809160389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] India and the Maldives today held wide-ranging talks on bilateral and regional matters. The prime minister, Mr Gandhi, had discussions with the visiting Maldives president, Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, this evening. The meeting was followed by official-level talks between the two delegations. Besides SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], the dominating issue was economic cooperation between the two countries.

The defense minister, Mr Pant, also called on Mr Gayoom.

Later, Mr Gandhi hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting dignitary.

Mr Gayoom, who arrived in New Delhi today on a 2-day official visit, expressed his happiness to newsmen over the performance of the Indian forces in training Maldives security forces.

Talks With Chinese Delegation Open in New Delhi

BK1809160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] India and China are keen on expanding bilateral trade and strengthening economic and technical cooperation. This was expressed by both the countries at the first ever Indo-Chinese joint commission meeting, which began in New Delhi this afternoon.

Leading the respective delegations, the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, and the Chinese minister of foreign economic relations and trade, Mr Zheng Tuobin, called for further consolidating the political and economic ties between the two countries. The two sides wanted to diversify trade and to increase contacts at various levels so as to bridge the information gap. They also favored more joint ventures by Indian and Chinese industries and scientific and technical projects for mutual benefit.

An AIR [ALL INDIA RADIO] correspondent reports that the opening session was marked by warmth and cordiality with a frequent reference to common problems and aspirations. The meeting, considered a landmark in Sino-Indian relationships, is a follow-up of the decisions taken during the prime minister's visit to China in December last year.

Paper Criticizes 'Arrogant' U.S. Presumptions

BK1809133389 Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: U.S. Intrusion in Punjab]

[Text] The Indian embassy in Washington is, of course, expected to work for Indo-US relations and, in order to facilitate these, try and remove misapprehensions in any regard about this country in the other. The extra efforts apparently made by Ambassador Karan Singh for a visit to Punjab by a US Congressional delegation led by House of Representatives Speaker Thomas S Foley "for first-hand information on alleged human rights violations" here may, in some quarters, be viewed as legitimate on this ground. Is the matter, however, as simple as that? The invitation has been issued along with a protest by several members of the Indian Parliament against a move in Congress to deny economic assistance to India on the basis of these allegations, backed by as many as 204 congressmen who will presumably be well represented in the proposed delegation. In this context, we can pertinently recall our own reaction to the visit to Punjab earlier this year by Congressman Stephen Solarz, a known and old India supporter, reportedly for the same purpose. We had then pointed out that such inspections—which is what they would seem to be, regardless of the invitations—cannot but appear to most observers as interferences in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation and that avowed well-wishers of Indo-US relations should be sensitive to this aspect of the matter. In the first place, the kind of people Dr Karan Singh would seem to be attempting to convert are those whose double-standards on "human rights" can hardly be more conspicuous. While a vigilant public opinion in India constantly seeks to safeguard civil liberties and democratic rights, it can do without help from those who have exhibited no qualms about propping up some of the most brutal dictatorships ever in the cause of fake "freedom". Our representatives abroad should make it quite clear that India's sovereignty and independence are not for sale. The Indo-US relations can hardly be promoted by encouraging arrogant superpower presumptions that have bedevilled them all along.

Iran

Syrian Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

LD1809122889 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' heading a top level politico-economic delegation arrived here Monday at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The delegation was greeted at Mehrabad International Airport by the Iranian foreign minister.

Upon his arrival, al-Shar' told reporters that his visit was aimed at strengthening and promoting mutual ties.

Velayati enumerated the topics to be discussed by the Syrian delegation and Iranian officials as mutual ties, the latest developments in the region and Lebanon and iminent visit to Tehran of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The delegation also includes Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi who was greeted by Economic and Financial Affairs Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh.

Velayati Comments on Visit

LD1809195889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Economic Minister Dr Imadi arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of an official delegation from that country. They were met by Velayati and Nurbakhsh, Iranian foreign and economic ministers.

On arrival in Tehran, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed his delight at visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that this trip is aimed at strengthening bilateral relations. He expressed the hope that the talks may continue on different levels.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Velayati, will you discuss recent developments in Lebanon during your visit?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Just as his excellency Faruq al-Shar' said, the relationship between Iran and Syria is important, strategic, and deep. His trip at this particular stage is a valuable step toward deepening relations and certainly, in the discussions which we shall have, issues relating to Lebanon and other regional issues will be covered alongside bilateral issues. This is a convention which we have always had with our brother Syrians that, in addition to the question of expansion of bilateral relations, we have had necessary coordination on regional and international issues. God willing, we shall continue this coordination.

[Reporter] There has been talk that in these meetings, you will be discussing the visit of al-Asad to Tehran. Is this correct?

[Velayati] Of course, His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad has been invited by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this trip is due to take place in the not too distant future. This will certainly be one of the subjects discussed.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

First Meeting Held

LD1909074889 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Foreign Ministers of Syria and Iran held their first round of talks here Monday evening.

The visiting Faruq al-Shar' and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed joint cooperation in international and regional issues and situation in Lebanon in particular.

The meeting held at the Foreign Ministry was attended by Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nourbakhsh and Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi.

Both sides agreed to form committees at deputy minister level to follow up issues of mutual interest.

Al-Shar' heading a politico-economic delegation arrived here Monday at the invitation of Velayati.

Talks Begin on Financial Dispute With France

LD1809100889 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept 18, IRNA—Settlement of Tehran-Paris financial disputes was discussed in the first round of talks of the visiting first deputy foreign minister of France, Francois Scheer, with Iran's Foreign Ministry deputy for Europe and America, Mahmud Vaezi, here Monday morning.

Scheer who arrived here Sunday night also discussed future cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides stressed determination of their governments for expansion of bilateral relations. It was also decided that in a bid to pave the way for future Tehran-Paris cooperation, settlement of the existing disputes be speeded up.

Both sides also agreed to draw up a time table for monthly negotiations to be held in Tehran and Paris alternately.

Nuclear Cooperation Talks

LD1809164189 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 18, IRNA—Financial disputes relevant to Framatom and Eurodif cases were discussed between head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation Reza Amrollahi and first deputy of the French Foreign Ministry Francios Scheer here today.

During the meeting Scheer expressed hope that the current obstacles in the way of the two countries' cooperation would be removed.

Amrollahi in reply expressed readiness for removal of the past disputes and studying the grounds for future cooperation between the two countries.

Following an agreement inked between the two countries on nuclear cooperation, Framatom consurtium signed a contract with the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation to construct two nuclear power generators in Iran, over which expert negotiations between the two countries are still under way in the international tribunal.

Eurodif is a French company whose shareholders are Italy, Spain, France, Belgium and Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran holds 10 percent of the shares.

Iran gave a loan of one billion dollars to Eurodif, part of which together with its interests has not been repaid.

Scheer arrived here Sunday night for talks on the disputes.

French Official Ends Visit

LD1909114489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Francois Scheer, the French first deputy foreign minister, who came to our country 2 days ago for a new round of talks on the financial dispute between Iran and France, left Tehran this morning.

Before leaving Tehran he described his visit to Iran and his talks with Iranian officials as fruitful. He expressed the hope that the next round of talks, which will be held next month, the meetings would be arranged in accordance with a fixed timetable and at short intervals.

Mr Va'ezi, the Foreign Ministry under secretary for America and Europe, described the atmosphere at the fresh round of talks in Tehran to resolve the dispute between Iran and France, as constructive and positive. He expressed the hope that the disputes, which block a speedy improvement of mutual ties, will be resolved as quickly as possible.

Oil Minister on Production, Soviet Gas Exports

LD1409202589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Dear listeners, the remarks of our country's oil minister about the commencement of gas exports to the Soviet Union, and the 5-year plans of the Oil Ministry for the construction and expansion of the country's refineries and increasing excavation work, are the topic of our first news report, to which we draw your attention.

The export of Iranian natural gas to the Soviet Union will begin on 21 March 1990. Aqazadeh, the oil minister, who went to Gilan Province to take part in ceremonies launching the drilling of the first exploratory oil well in the southern part of the Caspian Sea, announced this news in his interview with an IRNA correspondent. He said: According to this program, each year 3 billion cubic meters of Iranian gas will be exported to the Soviet Union, and on the basis of the bilateral agreement the volume of annual export will increase. He added: The foreign exchange earnings from oil exports during a 5-year plan will be between $2 and 2.5 billion.

Regarding the start of drilling for oil in the Caspian Sea, the oil minister said: This project is one of the most import programs of the Oil Ministry and a very major move in the country's economic life. He added: Seismic and geological work in this region was carried out 20 years ago, and during those operations three new oil fields were discovered. According to the oil minister these oil fields are believed to be among the best in the Caspian Sea.

Regarding other ministry activities in the Caspian Sea, the oil minister said: In order to expand our activities in the Caspian Sea, we have signed a contract for the construction of a ship-building factory and the assembly of oil drilling platforms with a Finnish company worth $70 million, and this will have a major effect in our non-oil economy.

Regarding oil exploration and drilling activities to increase the country's existing reserves, Aqazadeh said: In future years, as the result of a series of extensive activities, the volume of oil reserves which can be utilized in oilfields in different parts of the country, with an increase of 5 billion barrels, will be increased from the present 85 billion barrels to 90 billion barrels.

Regarding the construction of new oil refineries, the oil minister said: In the ministry's program we have been studying operations for the construction of two refineries in Arak and Bandare' Abbas, Abbas, and the agreement for the construction of an oil refinery in Arak has already been signed.

In this interview the oil minister announced: In the 5-year plan of the oil ministry, more than $8.4 billion will be invested in oil industry, $1.5 billion in gas industry, and $1.9 billion in the petrochemical industry.

Regarding this year's oil exports to foreign countries, the oil minister said: Within the context of the quota which has been set, the export of oil to foreign countries has been very good, and about 2 million barrels of oil has been exported daily to various countries in the world.

Details of Caspian Oil Drilling

LD1409203389 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., Sep. 14, IRNA—Drilling operation for the first Iranian-explored oil well in the southern zone of the Caspian Sea started Wednesday.

Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh inspected the operation aboard the first Iranian oil platform.

The drilling would continue up to the depth of 6,000 meters below the sea level and will be completed within

one and a half years, an official in charge of the operation said in his report to the oil minister.

He said the drilling followed a series of seismography operations in the oil field with reserves estimated at 300 million barrels. This is among three oil fields explored in the Caspian Sea by Iranian experts, he added. He said once drilling operations were carried out in other zones the total oil reserves would amount to one billion barrels.

A Soviet company is carrying out the operations under supervision of Iranian engineers. The field on which the drilling is being carried out is 25 kms long and five meters wide [as received], he said.

Iran and the Soviet Union have agreed to cooperate in exploring and exploiting oil. The agreement was reached by the two countries in a visit to Moscow of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in June. At the time of his Moscow visit, Hashemi-Rafsanjani was serving as the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Majlis.

Ayatollah Meshkini Notes U.S. Congressmen's 'Defeat'

LD1509180189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpts] This week the unifying and politico-ideological Friday prayers were held in Qom, led by Ayatollah Meshkini, at the Qods prayer house.

In the prayers sermons, referring to the letter by the U.S. congressmen calling for the overthrow of the Islamic regime of Iran, addressing them, Ayatollah Meshkini, the Friday imam of Qom said: By what logic and on what basis have you made such a request? Was this request based on wisdom, your Constitution, or your holy book the Bible?

Recounting various U.S. military, political and economic conspiracies since the inception of the Islamic Republic he said: The United States did its best to destroy this divine regime. But God willed that the ploys backfired. With God's blessing, this godly system will remain until the advent of the Remnant of God [Imam Mahdi].

He then referred to the strongly-worded and crushing reply by our country's legislature to the U.S. congressmen and the strong reaction by the Islamic Revolution Guards, and thanked them for their actions. [passage omitted]

Referring to the U.S. congressmen's withdrawal of their letter, he called it another defeat for U.S. aggressors. [passage omitted]

President Scores Baker Letter on Opposition

LD1609131289 Tehran IRNA in English 1302 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today underscored the need to develop universities both in qualitative and quantitative terms and to improve scientific and technical training as an important means of attaining self-sufficiency.

In a meeting with the country's university chancellors and college deans, the president noted that the world's industrialized and scientific poles were obviously trying to keep other nations dependent on them.

Terming slogans chanted by arrogant powers as "empty and false" Rafsanjani said "not only are they telling lies about putting their research facilities at the disposal of the Third World but are in fact trying to interfere in the social and political affairs of other nations."

He cited a recent letter sent by U.S. Congress to Secretary of State James Baker urging Washington to back Iranian opposition groups, as a proof of "disgrace for those who always condemn others for backing state terrorism but themselves support such elements whom they have time and again referred to as terrorists."

Larijani Opposes Relations With U.S.

NC1809170589 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Sep 89 p 1

[Editorial by Dr Javad Larijani: "Iran's Foreign Policy and the United States"]

[Text] 1. The Americans believe that a country's relations with the United States should be its paramount concern. However, not only are ties with the United States of no importance to Islamic Iran, but they are of absolutely no benefit to us. The Hezbollahi nation will transform Islamic Iran into a blossoming garden, a strong bastion for the defense of the sanctity of Islam and the Muslims, and there is no need for assistance from or ties with the United States to achieve this.

2. Some answer the question "under what conditions will Iran resume ties with the United States" by saying that the United States should take the first step and display its goodwill. I do not believe in this approach, because the issue should be whether ties with the United States benefit Iran. If they do, then the question of who should take the first step is immaterial. If ties are not beneficial, then no matter what positive steps the United States may take, we are not interested in any ties. In other words, the fundamental question is actually about the ties themselves and not who should take the first step.

3. A major part of the Islamic world today is under the plundering domination of the United States and the U.S. Government has no qualms about maintaining and expanding this domination. Nor has there been any indication that this policy will change. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the center of uprising, awakening, and revolution, the prime objective of which is the liberation of Islamic lands from the degrading domination of apostasy. Of course, the Islamic ummah has an even greater obligation to defend the

world's oppressed. Therefore, ties with the United States do not serve any logical purpose, at least in the near future.

4. Iran today is the cradle of Islam, not because of the size of its population, the importance of its policy, or the abundance of its wealth but because of the leadership with which it is able to guide the entire Islamic ummah and because of its ideological stance which requires us to consider the general interests of the unified Islamic ummah. We must think of ourselves as part of the "Islamic world," which is made up of more than 1 billion people, and our friendship or animosity toward any country should be reckoned on this scale. If we become enmeshed in geographical considerations, then we will be be seen as a small entity and the enemy will deal with us differently.

The preservation of our identity as the cradle of an Islamic Iran is one of the principles of our foreign policy and it is for this reason that we do not want relations with the Americans even if they want relations with us.

$50,000 Humanitarian Aid for Lebanon

LD1609115689 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 16, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has granted a 50,000 humanitarian aid to the victims of the civil war waged by Michel 'Awn against Muslims in Beirut.

The check was submitted to the Islamic delegation of Lebanon.

It is to be spent on foodstuff, medicine, blanket and other items needed by homeless Lebanese people.

Lebanon's Shaykh Sha'ban on Tehran Meeting

LD1809072489 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—The third gathering of Lebanese and Palestinian Islamic and nationalist groups will be held in Tehran this week to discuss the latest development in the region, said Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, head of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement, here Monday morning.

Sha'ban who arrived here this morning to attend the session, told IRNA in an interview that decisions made in two previous Damascus and Tehran gatherings and the recent measures of the tripartite committee of the Arab League will be discussed in Tehran this week. The session will be attended by all members, he added.

He described the two previous sessions as a move for more powerful presence of Syria in Lebanon.

Representatives of Lebanese and Palestinian groups gathered in Tehran in July and held several sessions with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

On the recent decisions of the Arab League tripartite committee, he said that it is an American tool and is the spokesman of the world oppressors. The League, he added, has done nothing for the benefit of the Muslims and Arabs. On the contrary it works to impose Maronite domination on Muslims and the oppressed of Lebanon.

More on the forthcoming Tehran gathering, he said that the Arab reactionary government were threatened by the previous sessions initiated by Iran and Syria and have made moves to offset its effects. "The intention is to create a second Israel in Islamic Lebanon," he told IRNA.

More on internal situation in Lebanon, Sha'ban said the United Stated is after promoting a Maronite personality, Mikhail Zahir, and aims to support him as the presidential candidate. If reactionary regimes join in this campaign, he said, the Muslims will have to suffer another more years [as received] under Maronites.

Official Denies Rift in Ties With Pakistan

NC1509114889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 89 pp 1,5

[D. Montazeri report]

[Text] A senior parliamentarian yesterday denied a foreign report "that a rift was created between Iran and Pakistan on the Afgha issue during the talks in Belgrade," Yugoslavia.

Majlis Deputy Hoseyn Sobhaninia talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said yesterday "The Iranian delegation held fruitful talks with the Pakistani delegation in Yugoslavia and we have no differences as it was reported by a foreign radio."

Sobhaninia was commenting on the BBC report on Thursday which interviewed the leader of the Iranian delegation at the Ninth Nonaligned Summit in Belgrade which was concluded last Friday.

"Well, I was with Dr Velayati while the BBC man was interviewing him on the corridor of the hall of the NAM Summit. I listened to Dr Velayati very carefully," he said.

The BBC in its Thursday evening Persian and English services commented that "a gulf was created between Iran and Pakistan on the issue of future role of Afghan President Dr Najibullah in the negotiations for the settlement of the Afghan issue."

Sobhaninia said, "Dr Velayati left the entire issue on the Mujahidin and also made it clear that Iran will honor the verdict of the Afghan people."

"Dr Velayati also said that Iran never likes to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan," the deputy from Neyshabur, Khorasan Province said.

Sobhaninia is also member of the Majlis Foreign Affairs Commission and was the member of the Iranian delegation at the NAM Summit in Belgrade.

He said that the Iranian delegation held a series of talks with the head of the Pakistani delegation Nusrat Bhutto and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

"I noticed a high degree of coordination between the Iranian and Pakistani officials at every point," he said.

"We have no problem with Pakistan and the talks in Belgrade brought the two countries' points of view nearer on Afghan issue," Sobhaninia told the TEHRAN TIMES.

Velayati Comments on Malaysia, Bangladesh Visit

C1509084089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Velayati by correspondent Ahmadzadeh at Mehrabad Airport after Velayati's return from Bangladesh and Malaysia on 14 September—recorded]

[Text] [Ahmadzadeh] Mr Velayati, during your trip to Malaysia and Bangladesh, you met with officials of both countries. What were the general results of this trip?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the Almighty and Merciful. The visits to Malaysia and Bangladesh took place at the invitation of the two countries' foreign ministers. They were official visits and it was actually the first time that a foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran had officially visited Malaysia and Bangladesh. There have been visits before, but not on an official level and not as part of a program or in response to an invitation. They were trips connected with participation in international meetings in these countries, such as the conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers in Bangladesh.

During the visit to Malaysia, there were useful meetings with His Excellency Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian prime minister, and with the Malaysian foreign and finance ministers. Discussions were held on bilateral relations between Iran and Malaysia, on the expansion of regional cooperation between our two countries, and on regional cooperation between us and ASEAN. It was decided that both parties should strive harder for this in the future.

For 2 years now, there has been progress in economic and commercial relations between Iran and Malaysia. The goods that Malaysia exports to Iran—such as rubber, tin, and palm oil—are important to us. In exchange, we will export to Malaysia some of the oil it needs. We set the trade ceiling at about $200 million during the recent meeting of the two countries' joint committee. Part of this projected trade has taken place, and during our meetings we decided to try to reach a higher level of trade within the projected amount.

The Bangladesh visit was also official and took place in response to an earlier invitation and in reply to the Bangladesh foreign minister's visit to Iran. Meetings took place with His Excellency Bangladeshi President Ershad and with the Bangladesh foreign minister. At the end of the visit a memorandum of understanding outlining the framework of the future cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh was signed by that country's foreign minister and myself. In the near future, we will, God willing, witness the first joint Iranian-Bangladesh committee.

We need products such as jute and tea which Bangladesh has, and Bangladesh needs our oil and cement. Agreements were reached on these and, God willing, within the next 2 weeks an economic delegation from Bangladesh will visit Iran. In their talks with their Iranian colleagues, the members of the delegation will discuss the preparation of the joint committee and the implementation of economic and commercial cooperation.

The visits to the two Islamic countries of Malaysia and Bangladesh was in line with the Islamic Republic's foreign policy on the expansion of relations with Islamic countries. Iran has good cooperation with Malaysia and Bangladesh in the Islamic Conference Organization, in the Nonaligned Movement, and in the United Nations. This cooperation will increase in the future. In view of the fact that Malaysia is a member of the Security Council, we can carry out special joint efforts.

[Ahmadzadeh] Thank you.

Atomic Energy Official on Exporting Uranium

NC1509221389 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Sep 89 p 7

[From the Economics Desk]

[Text] There are only 10 countries in the world that have high- grade uranium and we are one of them.

According to the RESALAT correspondent this was said by Dr Amrollahi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, in an interview with the nuclear energy publication [not further specified]. He added: We are currently prospecting for uranium in Saghand, Yazd. This has been going on for the past 5 years and, God willing, we are on our way to exploiting this mine.

He said: The Saghand mine is one of our country's largest uranium mines. It is not possible to disclose exact figures on its reserves at this time because whatever estimate we provide may be an anomaly [preceding word in English], and the reserves may be much greater.

Dr Amrollahi added: It is a source of pride for us today that the Saghand mine is one of the world's largest uranium mines. As to when the mine will become operational and whether this uranium mine is similar to others or requires any special procedures, he said: One kg of uranium sells for $30 to $100 on the international

market today. Our mine, with an estimated 5,000 tons of uranium, is obviously a source of great income.

He continued: I hope that with this uranium we will be able to develop our nuclear energy industry and become a major exporter as well.

Regarding Iran's international uranium standing Dr Amrollahi said: At present no specific ranking has taken place but we can claim that we are 1 of 10 countries that have high-grade uranium.

When asked whether ample uranium reserves are present in other areas he said: We have resources in the cities of Esfahan, Azerbaijan, Khorasan, and Sistan va Baluchestan, but none of these can compare with the Yazd reserves.

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NC1509114889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 89 pp 1,5

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Khorasani Defends Call for Ties With Riyadh

LD1909105789 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani said here Tuesday that there is no reason to refrain from resuming diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

Speaking in the open session of the Majlis he answered to recent criticism on his calls for resumption of diplomatic ties with saudi Arabia.

Raja'i Khorasani's interview with a Tehran newspaper two weeks ago calling on the Foreign Ministry to make efforts for improvement of ties with Saudi Arabia, raised opposition in the Majlis and the media.

The Majlis Foreign Relations Committee in a statement on September 13 described Raja'i Khorasani's statement as his "personal views."

"I still believe that we must have diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia and have reasons to support it," he told the Majlis.

He made it clear that having diplomatic ties with another country does not mean full approval of all its policies." If we have ties we can raise our views and effect their political decisions" he said adding that in this case their political decisions will be moved in the direction of legitimate interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"It is no good to leave the scene of Saudi Arabia for Iraq, we must be present there and maintain the political balance for the benefit of Iran," he told the deputies.

Stressing that Iran's foreign policy is based on peace and detente, he said that Iran is after implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 in solving its disputes with Iraq and, therefore, there is no reason to avoid resumpton of ties with Riyadh.

Turning to Iran-Saudi problems he stressed that they must be settled adding that they will not be sorted out by severance of diplomatic ties.

He said that Saudi Arabia provides a good market for Iranian products and stressed importance of cultural ties between the two nations.

He further told the majlis that Saudi officials by condemning the blasphemous book on Islam, The Satanic Verses, have shown their cooperation with Iran, which could be developed further.

Raja'i Khorasani made no mention of massacre of hajj pilgrims by Saudi police three years ago.

Paper Urges More Ties With Moslems, Others

NC1809162289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Sep 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Velayati Delegation To Foster Muslim, Third World Ties"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati heads a delegation to Malaysia and Bangladesh and is already across carrying the well wishes of the Islamic Republic of Iran to these countries and the Moslem populations there. As the foreign minister himself has said the objective of the political delegation is consonant with Iran's foreign policy objective emphasizing the importance of expanding ties with Moslem and Third World countries. It is our hope that the delegation will serve to friendly relations with these Southeast Asian countries and effectively improve them.

It is only when we have firmly decided and act upon the resolution that the problems of Moslem countries and Asian countries as a whole are common to each and all of us and we demonstrate this in practical terms that we can stand against the pernicious influences of big power manipulation and domination of weaker nations in this part of the world.

Very unfortunately we were in the first decade of our Islamic Revolution enmeshed in a number of problems that were thrust upon us with the objective of stifling the revolution or diverting it from its idealistic goals. Our foreign policy goals too, suffered as a result and we have not been able to make headway more than we have endeavored to do in spite of these obstacles. Nevertheless the opportunities are now open to us and we should take advantage in popularizing the ideals of our Islamic Revolution among the Moslem countries of Asia, who to a large extent are ignorant of our greater aims. Of the poorer countries of the Third World, we should make them aware that the Islamic Republic stands together in every effort to counter the economic and cultural domination of the West by countries who have so far been too weak, or too much netted in by these influences, to resist and hold out against them.

Let us, however, not be too pessimistic in viewing our Moslem bretheren throughout the world as beyond inclusion in the progressive stream of world nations. Take for instance, the two little nations like Brunei and the Maldives, both with virtually total Moslem populations although small in numbers. Yet their resources and potential are enviable indeed. Malaysia and Indonesia, both very large and with considerable numbers of majority Moslem populations are both rich in resources. A great many like these have been the victims of years of colonialism and suppression.

It is regrettable that these Islamic countries have not even cultural centers in each others' countries, when that should be one of the first priorities for establishing a closer relationship with the Moslems of the Third World. Then in addition, there is the wealth of economic potential which can be taken advantage of on a mutual basis. There are many millions of Moslems in countries like Malaysia, Bangladesh and Indonesia and they can provide worthwhile markets not only for European or Japanese goods, but goods from countries like ours too.

All the earlier plans which the Islamic Repulic of Iran has initiated such as one for an Islamic Common Market, Islamic joint media services and many others have not really taken off and contacts at high level such as through delegations of the kind now being headed by Dr Velayati have a point and can foster the growth of such plans into realistic shape in the future.

Paper Views 'Pragmatic' Approach to Nonaligned

NC1409120789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "A Pragmatic approach to Problems by NAM"]

[Text] Non-aligned countries meeting in Belgrade for their 9th summit dating from 1961, when they held their first at the same venue, wound up the 4-day meeting of heads of state yesterday with a resolution that Western imperialism at least will consider mild in comparison to many that have gone before.

The heads of state, or governments, or their representatives stressed a pragmatic approach to the problems being faced by the Third World. Many comprising this bloc joined hands over 28 years ago to form an organization that could reflect their views and help create the necessary viable climate for effectively securing their rights in a shared world.

Twenty-eight years is a long time for an organization that has attracted 96 members from an original nucleus of the six who worked on the idea of setting up such a forum. India, Yugoslavia and Egypt as founder members of NAM [Nonaligned Movement] persuaded their colleagues this time to adopt a document which declared that the "world was now becoming a safer place." We wonder whether this really goes far enough as a fulfilment of NAM ideals in all these years.

One thing that stands out as a strong thread and theme in the course of the 4-day meeting was the constant refrain of certain member states who complained that the West had done too little and had not quite made up its mind to do more urgently in future to ease the burden of the grinding poverty and astronomical debt problems of the Third World.

Many of the countries who felt that more vital action was required by NAM in many areas also pointed to the fact that military ventures were still continuing in the Middle East, Asia and Afica. The necessity, if it can be called that at all, for military conflicts and interventions in these areas are not really of the making of nations within these spheres themselves. They have been helplessly caught up in larger conflicts and aggrandizements by bigger powers with motives and interests of their own. In addition to these conflicts there are conflicts between member nations themselves, each seeking redress for what they claim to be their own complaints. Now all of these are a continuing source of concern and will need to be addressed by NAM.

However, some progress appears to have been made such as in the Iran-Iraq conflict, which has now come to be viewed in a more realistic way. Although iran expected a more explicit statement by NAM on the issue, it has endeavored in every way possible to it to support all moves of the U.N. Security Council. We believe NAM has now given the U.N. chief some extra ballast in trying to wind up these negotiations in a manner that will give satisfaction to both parties in the conflict.

As far as the pragmatist approach of the Third World to problems goes, this is indeed most welcome. Yet it should be noted that the very fact of Third World coming to this accommodation despite its very many pressing problems makes it incumbent on the richer Western governments to shoulder willingly their greater responsibilities in finding solutions to these problems.

Iraqi Effort To Get Nuclear Missiles Viewed

NC1809171589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "A Dangerous Arms Race in the Middle East"]

[Text] Generating unhealthy fears of war when nations can better devote attention to economic and spiritual regeneration of their nations is perhaps one of the sordid tactics of dictators and those who wish to hold on to political power against the wishes of their people. This it appears can be the only motive behind much publicized revelations that the Iraqi regime in collaboration with Egypt and Argentina is at developing the Condor II missiles with an estimated range of 1,000 kilometers (600 miles).

The Argentine president confirming the military reports has even gone so far as to say that he will not be deterred by superpower pressures to stop such collaboration. But much as we appreciate the need for economically strapped Argentina's need to replenish its coffers, the president should think in terms of the dangerous consequences of setting off an arms race in this region.

A cause for even more concern is the report that Baghdad which has made no secret of its chemical arms production—or rather the fact that the secret came to light when a big chemical bomb plant caught fire in Iraq recently killing several—is now busy trying to gain access to missiles carrying nuclear warheads. It appears that Baghdad has multiplied its efforts since the August 20, 1988 ceasefire called by the United Nations. Iraq is evading pursuit of real peace, appearing to want it so and on the other hand escalating a dangerous arms race.

The possible access of the Iraqis to nuclear warheads will only lead to a new phase of crisis and tensions in the region and there can be no saying what will happen in the future. All it will do is take any moves in pursuit of peace further and further away. And if this is not to be, then the world bodies will have to step in and stop the rot that is beginning to set in so that it will not have more far-reaching consequences.

With Iraq's past record of nefarious use of chemical bombs at Halabjah, who can guarantee that this regime is not doing all that it is at now to undermine regional peace and play the gendarme of the region.

If the world keeps silent and does nothing, then it should not hold the Islamic Republic of Iran to blame if it too begins to think in terms of building up an arsenal for defensive purposes against covert threats of this nature. However, what iran now is endeavoring honestly to do is to develop its nuclear energy for peaceful purposes through technology and help provided by the Soviet Union in pursuance of the friendly relations that have been struck between the two neighboring countries.

All in all, however, the Middle Eastern arms race seems to be rolling along with a momentum of its own and will in all probability not stop through urgings of a friendly nature. So Iran would have to take note of the underlying dangers and deal with them in as serious and realistic a manner as such diabolic dangers merit.

Daily on Iraq's POW 'Propaganda Scheme'

LD1609144989 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN said Saturday that the Iraqi Government is sending a small group of relatives of Iraqi war prisoners to Washington for purely propaganda purposes and in a bid to ward off future criticism against itself.

It said the device is a ploy for detracting universal attention on Iraq's time-killing tactics in connection with the UN Security Council Resolution 598 which commits the Iraqi Government to push back to international borders and repatriate war prisoners as a first measure in fulfillment of the Security Council resolution.

KEYHAN said for malicious reasons during and after the Iraq-Iran war the Iraqi Government has consistently refused to identify the number of Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq and that in an unabashed disregard of Vienna conventions the Iraqi Government has prevented any sort of communication, by correspondence or other,

between the Iranian war prisoners in Iraq and their relatives in Iran. It said despite the hostile attitude by the Baghdad government the Islamic Republic has even arranged visits in Iran between Iraqi war prisoners and their families which, the paper said, the Iraqi Government cannot deny.

The daily said in light of the situation the Iraqi Government is not the least likely to profit by this device of financing propaganda travel abroad of relatives of a few Iraqi war prisoners. It said even the relatives of Iraqi war prisoners wish to see Iraq fulfill its obligations in respect of the resolution, and that "to engage in such propaganda schemes is a challenge to the UN Security Council Resolution 598, and indicates Iraq's frustration in responding to the just demands of the relatives of Iraqi war prisoners."

The daily expressed doubt if the Iraqi Government would be able to win international support by sending 'pedestrians' abroad.

Paper on Need for Unity Among Afghan Groups

NC1509113989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Call to Unity by Afghan Groups Needs To Be Followed Up"]

[Text] Interim government of the seven-party alliance of Afghan Mujahidin based in Pakistan through a statement issued yesterday in Peshawar asked for closer ties and cooperation among the various Mujahidin groups. This statement does not mention any conditions which the Mujahidin groups should abide by.

While the statement is a positive sign by itself, the time seems late. The interim government has not been successful in ambition to attract other groups to the alliance and in contrast has been dealing with internal clashes for the past few months. As a result of internal conflicts Hezb-e Islami, headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, boycotted the interim government on August 29.

The communist government in Kabul, despite the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, has been able to strengthen its shaky presence in Afghanistan. Contrary to earlier predictions by political analysts the regime in Kabul has survived several military offensives launched by the Mujahidin. Nonetheless, the Kabul regime oes not have any popular base among the people of Afghanistan. Lack of popularity and certain other parameters are going to contribute to destabilization of the regime in the next few months. This does not mean, however, that the regime is going to collapse, given the disintegration of the Mujahidin at the present time.

Under a clear strategy and defined objective, existence of unity even for an interval of time can be very fruitful. While the struggle was pointed against an occupation force, the Soviet Union, the unity was superb, and the world witnessed the huge success by the Mujahidin. Today, too, the Mujahidin can close ranks and set the strategy for an independent, non-aligned and Islamic Afghanistan. But the prerequisite for such step is patience and grace by all the groups.

Yesterday's statement by the interim government if does not follow with practical steps by members can be detrimental to the cause. Given the presence of leaders such as Yunis Khalis, leader of the other faction of Hezb-e Islami, in the interim government who has hostile religious views about the other Islamic school of thoughts and desires a middle-ages style of government, it rules out any possibility for the interim government to reach an agreement with the other Mujahidin groups. Younis's attitude is another indication the interim government has failed to reach a united strategy and also broad support among the city people. If the Afghan people do not offer their support for the revolution, toppling the current regime is going to be an enormously difficult task.

Rafsanjani Opens Tehran Trade Fair

LD1609181689 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—The 15th Tehran international trade fair opened here Saturday with a speech by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Foreign diplomats in Tehran and a number of high-ranking military and political officials were present at the inaugural session.

In his inaugural speech, President Rafsanjani underlined the role such international trade fairs played in strengthening friendship among nations and boosting science and technology.

However, the president expressed regret that such fairs could be used in turning people into consumers, something which he said was detrimental to Third World nations and consumer societies.

Warning against the wide gap between industrialized countries and underdeveloped states, he noted the fact that industrialized states were merely after their own interests and could eventually push other countries into an explosive state which could not be compensated.

The president, referring to the country's high industrial capacity, expressed hope that Iran could make a turning point in the trend of its trade exchanges with other countries by activating its industries.

The area of the fair site is 73,000 square meters, 32 percent of which has been given to 41 countries participating in the fair to display their goods, Commerce Minister Abd al-Hoseyn Vahaji said in a report to the president.

Thailand, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Canada, Benin, Tanzania, Cyprus and the United Arab

Emirates are taking part in the Tehran fair for the first time since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

President Discusses Heavy Industries Policy

LD1609194289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by unidentified correspondent at Tehran's 15th international trade fair on 16 September—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Excuse me, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In the first stage of your visit to the country's industrial exhibits, Your Eminence chose to visit the heavy industries exhibit. Please give us your assessment of the industrial products presented there during this period, which is called the period of reconstruction.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I was able to understand very little because I had very little time. We just walked past the stands, getting a view of them, and I listened to a few explanations. When I could, I stopped to ask questions. When something caught my attention, I stopped. I think that we have very good resources for work now. Basically, what was being said everywhere was: Give us the possibilities and we will fulfill domestic needs. In some places, they had attained self-sufficiency, to an acceptable extent, in complicated industries. I think that our heavy industry has a strong foundation for the industrial advancement of the country. However, my feeling is that they have many needs and the government is responsible for fulfilling their needs. In particular, the section that we saw was mostly the private sector. Naturally, the private sector does not have a free hand, as does the government, from one point of view. Although from the point of view of consumption it has a freer hand. I saw cases where they do business with free foreign exchange. And now, because they can sell freely, they have been able to stand on their feet without government assistance.

In the guilds too—production guilds which mostly consist of cooperatives and (?small) entrepreneurs—I saw interesting talents there, as well as enthusiasm for production. People are contributing to the country's self-sufficiency with the minimum resources. It inspires a great deal of hope. I am somewhat ashamed that when I saw those entrepreneurs I did not have the opportunity to speak to them for a bit and listen to their aspirations.

[Reporter] You referred to the stand of the country's alliance of production guild cooperatives. In view of Your Eminence's declared policy on moving those industries to maximum capacity, and in view of the shortfall which those industries experience in obtaining the required foreign exchange, has any thought been given to them in the short-term and in schedule of the 5-year plan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. We are now talking about it in the government. We have assessed the foreign exchange requirements those industries need to attain a reasonable production level. Of course, it may not be possible for (?three shifts) or for very high production levels. However, we are considering a reasonable level which will allow them to meet the country's needs to some extent and to use their resources. I think that this will not impose a great burden. If we can give them $2-3 billion per year in addition to what we give them now, we will solve their problem to some extent. This is what we foresee. We hope that it will go to the Majlis and that the Majlis will approve it.

[Reporter] This is the stand of the Kish Development Organization. Let me ask you as a last question. In view of the potential which exists in Kish, what is the government's plan for activating that port and using its resources?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] That is precisely why I am at this exhibit, because of the importance we give at this juncture to a free port. We think that a free port will be a problem solver for us now. It can fulfill to a great extent those very same needs which the government cannot fulfill at the moment. We are now insisting on this policy.

[Reporter] Thank-you.

Factions Urged 'Not To Create Problems'

LD1909081589 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Tuesday said that expansion of Tehran-Paris ties should not be subject to "temporary political bubbles."

The daily referring to the current visit of director general of the French Foreign Ministry, Francois Scheer, said that bilateral ties should be based on the "strategic goals of the countries."

"Expansion of ties with Iran must not become a partisan battle and a means for resolving internal power struggle," said the English daily in its editorial.

Several attempts at establishing full-scale relationship between Iran and France almost always failed due to power struggle in France.

France could be an "indispensible partner" of Iran because of its technical and scientific capabilities especially in atomic energy, heavy industries and commerce, it added.

The daily urged political factions in Iran not to create problems for officials over the issues and policies that have been "carefully studied".

It said that Iran's strained ties with many other countries during the Iraqi-imposed war was "a weapon in the

hands of Iraqis using it effectively against us," and stressed that the weapon should be snatched away from them.

"Now that the subject of improving the diplomatic relations is revived once more there should be a genuine effort for improving ties from both sides," stressed the daily.

Marine Exercise Scheduled for Bandar 'Abbas

LD1909104789 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Sept. 19, IRNA—'Karbala-3 Operations' maneuver will be launched by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) marine forces at the Persian Gulf littoral waters here this weekend, on the anniversary of the 'Holy Defence Week.'

The maneuver will be held from September 22-24 during which city's old jetty will hypothetically serve as Iraq's al-Umayyah jetty, captured by the IRGC marine corps in Karbala-3 operations in 1986.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Appoints Nine Advisers

LD1809133889 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT 18 Sep 89

[all names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—The following is a list of nine presidential advisors appointed by President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani Monday:
1 - Mostafa Mirsalim for research affairs
2 - Javad Ezheie for cultural affairs.
3 - Masih Mohajeri for social affairs.
4 - Gudarz Eftekhar-Jahromi for legal affairs.
5 - Abutaleb Shalchian for economic affairs.
6 - Majid Abbaspour for technical affairs.
7 - Abdulfazl Tavakkoli for commercial and guilds affairs.
8 - Mowlavi Ishaq Madani for Sunni affairs.
9 - Alireza Mo'ayeri for international affairs.

Commentary on ETTELA'AT's Sirjani Article

NC1809115589 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Aug 89 pp 10,4

[A. Salah commentary: "The Responsibility of the Press"]

[Excerpts] All the newspapers and periodicals in most countries are fully responsible for their editorial staff and writers' items. Even though this does not mean that they are as directly responsible for the publication of items from their readers, nevertheless they are still responsible to an extent.

After the publication of an insulting article in one of Tehran's evening papers, some tried to exonerate the paper and to blame only the author of the article. I do not know the logic or expediency behind this. They may have been trying not to jeopardize freedom of press or have been tyring to prevent a press war. Then again, perhaps they did not want to hurt the feelings of their friends on the said newspaper. But if instead of admitting its mistakes, this newspaper continues to insist on the author's allegations, then what?!

When a newspaper publishes an "interesting"(!) article by a "prudent"(!) writer, knowing that this article will give rise to protests, can it empty its shoulders of any responsibility merely by publishing a prologue that "the presentation of the article does not reflect the newspaper's concurrence with all the writer's views?" [passage omitted]

My brothers in ETTELA'AT: I do not know you, but I respect your pen and believe that you too, like the rest of the nation, have pledged allegience to the Imam to defend the ideals of the revolution and not to divert from his path even for a moment. Know that I, as a non-Iranian Muslim who sees everything from the scope of the world Islamic revolution, am very saddened when I see that you grant opportunists the opportunity to hurt the feelings of the friends of the revolution.

In this article, my intention was not to cite from the article by your prudent author because I do not think it appropriate to refer to such babblings. But I am annoyed that you have allowed a revolution supported by the officials and the people for 10 years to be offended in this way. Read this article again to see how, if all the revolutionary Muslims in the world and our brothers in Lebanon and Palestine thought like you and the author whose views you endorse, the East and the West would easily be able to continue to kill and rub their hands with joy.

If what you think is correct, then what are you waiting for? Tell all the seeks of independence in the world to end their struggles and to bow to the United States. But I know that this has never been what you believe in. This is exactly why you should be more careful in your actions.

Official Describes Plans To Deal With Corruption

LD1209221789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Teams, comprising experts from the state inspectorate organization, will from now on be stationed in all the state organs and departments, including airports, the passport office, municipalities, the traffic police stations and gendarmerie posts, to supervise their working method. Mr Mohaqqeq-Damad, head of the state inspectorate organization, during a news conference this morning, referring to the need for the rule of law in society and confrontation against corruption and infringement in state administrative offices and departments, stressed the importance of maintaining order and

public security in society and warned against illegal arrests and the confiscation of assets from innocent individuals.

He said: No one can take steps to arrest individuals or confiscate their assets without obtaining legal permission; and if the state inspectorate organization were to come across such instances of infringement it would deal with the offenders decisively.

The head of the state inspectorate organization pointed out: This organization, with its 40 branches all over the country and by employing the experts and specialists, will investigate cases of infringement in the state administrative offices. Last week, 20 teams were dispatched to investigate the working method of hospitals and health and treatment centers in state departments to supervise their work closely.

Mohaqqeq-Damad also referred to the discovery of a gang of corruption in the criminal investigate department, which led to several arrests, and said: This gang was smashed, thanks to the cooperation between the state inspectorate organization and other relevant organs, and the members of this gang were arrested. The file of the arrested individuals is currently under investigation. He also added: All the authorities and responsible officials in the state departments are dutybound to place the necessary information and documents at the disposal of this organization, and failure to do so will be treated as an offence and will lead to suspension from the government services or 6 months imprisonment.

In conclusion of this news conference, the head of the state inspectorate organization called upon our supportive people to contact telephone numbers 671520 and 671733, should they come across or observe any cases of infringement, embezzlement and abuse in administrative offices. Steps will be taken to pursue the matter.

New Foreign Exchange Regulations Planned

NC1409121489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Sep 89 p 3

[Report by the TEHRAN TIMES City Desk]

[Text] The introduction of new foreign exchange controls is expected shortly, TAZEHA-YE EQTESAD the financial magazine quoting a Central Bank source disclosed in its latest issue.

In order to regulate the roaring free market all money dealers will be licensed and will not be permitted to buy foreign currency from foreign nationals.

Such a development will help curb the activities of money dealers operating in the bazars trading foreign currencies at 10-15 times the exchange rate set by the Central Bank.

The new regulations will allow Iranians to take a certain amount of foreign currency out of the country without special permission. But any business transactions over a set limit will have to comply with new regulations.

The move is directed towards improving the country's ailing economy.

Rafsanjani Sends Maritime Day Message

LD1809130989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Excerpts] This morning, International Maritime Day ceremonies in the Islamic Republic of Iran opened with a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Transportation Minister Sa'idi-Kia and several civilian and military officials attended the ceremony at the Allamen Amini Hall in Tehran University. [passage omitted]

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message stressed the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf. He pointed out that, thanks to the vast hydrocarbon reserves, the length of the coasts, the strategic islands and ports, and considering the significance of the Strait of Hormuz and the pious and revolutionary manpower, Iran enjoys a special position in that international waterway. We must thank God for these important oil and gas reserves and marine resources, which are the result of special divine blessings bestowed on this nation, and we must strive to preserve them and, through unity, we must take maximum advantage in order to raise the standard of living, knowledge, and prosperity of the people.

The president's message then referred to the reconstruction era and the importance of improving the backward areas as soon as possible. He stressed: We must strive with all our might to rebuild the ports, to construct the jetties, to improve and increase marine education, to train the necessary specialist personnel, to set up advanced marine courses, to create educational centers to international standards, to expand marine workshops and factories, to build and repair ships, to prepare parts and equipment required to reach self-sufficiency and to make savings in the country's economy, to expand the merchant fleet and shipping lines, to correctly utilize and improve the sea's hydrocarbon reserves, and to expand the fishing industry and other marine resources.

Considering the country's sensitive position and the political- economic importance of Iran's water borders in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, correct and speedy plans should be drawn up and action taken in cooperation with other maritime institutes and organizations. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Senate Demands Immediate Indian Pullout

BK1909024889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has reaffirmed the government's position that it desires

the establishment of good neighborly and tension-free relations with India on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit. He was making a short statement in the Senate today on a resolution moved by Professor Khurshid Ahmad regarding conduct of relations with India.

The foreign minister said in our endeavor to seek settlement of pending disputes, we are guided by the accepted norms and principles of interstate relations. The requirement of regional peace and tranquility makes it imperative for Pakistan and India to work toward the easing of tension and to strive for peace and cooperation. He assured the House that in seeking better relations with India, we are guided by realism and will never compromise our interests on vital issues, including Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, speaking on a point of order by Mr Tarique Chaudhary, the foreign minister assured that there is no shift in the foreign policy of Pakistan regarding India and Afghanistan.

Later, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution which, among other things, states that India should immediately withdraw its forces from Siachen Glacier, which was occupied in violation of international law and the Simla Accord, and that the problem of Kashmir should be resolved through plebiscite. It states that all countries in the region have a right to decide for themselves the (?size) of security arrangements they want for their defense and this right should be respected. It affirms the right of the countries of the region to develop all forms of technology to meet their economic, energy, and other needs. The resolution further demands that rights of the [Muslim] minority should be respected, and while pursuing contacts and undertaking dialogue with India, Pakistan should seek an early solution of fundamental problems. It says peace and tranquillity in the region depend on sincere adherence to the principles of the UN Charter. The resolution affirms that the people of Pakistan want to live in peace and friendship with all neighbors, including India. But the friendship can be strengthened by safeguarding ideological and economic interests of Pakistan.

The discussion on the admissibility of an adjournment motion moved by Mr Tarique Chaudhary, Syedah Zaki Iqbal, and Professor Khurshid Ahmad regarding the arrest of editor of PAKISTAN OBSERVER, Mr Zhid Malik [who wrote a book on Pakistan's nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan and Pakistan's nuclear bomb], remained inconclusive. The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Dr Sher Afghan, opposed the admissibility of the motion on the grounds that the case was subjudice. In addition, the arrest of the journalist was not connected with his journalistic duties but it related to the publication of a book.

Paper Urges Nuclear Nonproliferation Meeting

BK1709054689 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 31 Aug 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Nuclear Nonproliferation"]

[Text] In an interview, the Pakistani prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has clarified that Pakistan has adequate nuclear expertise and know-how to face any kind of threat. However, Pakistan does not have any intention of utilizing them. The prime minister said: We have knowledge, but there is a difference between knowledge and capability. We do not have any intention of utilizing our knowledge in the absence of any threat. Our government has a strong determination to adhere to the policy of nonproliferation. Any unilateral action by any country of the subcontinent can trigger a nuclear arms race. The prime minister disclosed that Islamabad has taken steps to initiate a regional dialogue on this issue. But, India has some reservations in this regard. A dialogue of this sort will be a definite guarantee to eliminate the threat of nuclear proliferation in the subcontinent.

The Pakistani prime minister's thoughts on nonproliferation are evidence of Pakistan's strict adherence to the policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of others and its desire to keep the subcontinent absolutely free from a nuclear arms race. All of the countries of this region should allocate a major part of their resources for the welfare of their people and steps should be taken to establish lasting peace in the region. Nevertheless, all of these objectives cannot be realized only by Pakistan's unilateral policies and tendencies. Therefore, all countries of the region should certainly keep these objectives in view and make arrangements for a regional-level dialogue to realize them. All countries of the region should reach a consensus for some accord on nuclear nonproliferation. Until this kind of accord comes into effect in the region, there will be concern as always.

While reviewing the political situation of the subcontinent, we come across the fact that the major impediment in the way of achieving nuclear nonproliferation is India's attitude. India, which had its first nuclear explosion in 1974 is now in a position to have another one. During this time, it has acquired an extraordinary nuclear capability and has also started manufacturing sophisticated weapons. Moreover, it has acquired sophisticated weapons from the Soviet Union. The question arises—after all, India's security is threatened by which country in the region—why does it accumulate weapons and why does it want to trigger an arms race in the region thereby? India's negative tendency has not only caused concern among the countries of the region but has also led to a bleak future for peace.

Taking India's military preparations and its atomic capabilities into consideration, one can understand that it is not only a threat to Pakistan but is also a cause for concern and threat to the security of other countries of the region. All countries of the region should make concerted efforts toward nuclear nonproliferation.

Although Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has mentioned India's hesitation about a dialogue on nuclear nonproliferation, it does not mean that Pakistan should give up its efforts in this regard. In our opinion, these efforts should continue and Pakistan should liaise with other countries of the region and arrange for a regional conference on ending the arms race and on nuclear nonproliferation. This sort of conference will produce positive effects in the region and Pakistan's efforts for nuclear nonproliferation will definitely prove effective.

MUSLIM Reports Dissension in Ruling PPP

BK1609104289 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Sep 89 p 1, 8

[Text] Karachi, Sept. 2—Syed Qurban Ali Shah, an MNA [member of the national assembly] of Pakistan People's Party from Sind has disclosed that ten like-minded Sind PPP [Pakistan People's Party] MNAs have requested permission from the Speaker to sit together in the National Assembly.

In an interview with the English monthly magazine of Karachi "HERALD" published in its latest issue [he] explained the reasons and said "actually, the situation is such that the manner in which the government has been run to date has made many of our colleagues unhappy and despite the fact that our leader keeps talking about democracy—to the extent that she proposed the formation of an 'international union of democratic States'—she has not given her own party MNAs the democratic right to air their opinions on any major issue."

"For example, after the government was formed the key decision taken on the Punjab issue was announced and our opinions were never sought on this issue—and we were unhappy about this."

The second mistake was the choice of the Punjab Governor. They did not consult the Parliamentary party over the choice and appointed a nonpolitical person to that key post who may have been able to perform on the battlefield but was not going to be politically useful in any way to the PPP.

The next mistake was the induction of such a large army of Ministers, along with so many Advisers. I feel that this really damaged the image of our leader. It was all unnecessary and a sheer waste of public money. Even the Constitution the late Zia left for us says that there should be only five Advisers.

By appointing so many Advisers two houses were created—the second house consisted of those people who had been rejected in the elections and who suddenly became Advisers and OSDs [Officers on Special Duty] and these people are responsible for giving the Prime Minister wrong pieces of advice, antagonising the Parliamentary Party and stopped asking her MNAs for their opinions. In fact, there are many MNAs who have never been granted an interview with their Prime Minister. For all these reasons the discontent on the PPP benches is very high, he added.

Asked whether the disgruntled MNAs tried to air their grievances within the party hierarchy he said, "Some like-minded MNAs from three provinces had got together and drafted a charter of demands" which was signed by 32 MNAs. The reason why this document, which sought reforms in the Parliamentary System to strengthen our party, was not presented to the Prime Minister was because she refused to meet us as a group. The Advisers and Ministers told her that if she listened to these members together she would be put under great pressure from the people—although that was never our intention."

He further disclosed that "the members from Sind also prepared a protest draft, which was signed by 22 MNAs, including four Federal Ministers—that is a large proportion of the 32 PPP MNAs in Sind. After we presented this draft we fell prey to a vilification campaign. I have been threatened on various occasions."

Assembly Speaker on Joining Commonwealth

BK1609032689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Sep 89

[Text] Speaking at a book publication function in Lahore, National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid has said, for Pakistan, the entry into the Commonwealth has become necessary due to the changes at global level. He said Pakistan's entry into the Commonwealth will benefit a large number of Pakistanis working in the member countries.